

# Battle Through the Heavens

(斗破苍穹)

Chapter

500-599

Tian Can Tu Dou

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## Story Description:

In a land where no magic is present. A land where the strong makes the rules and weak has to obey. A land filled with alluring treasures and beauty yet also filled with unforeseen danger. Xiao Yan, who has shown talents none had seen in decades, suddenly three years ago lost everything, his powers, his reputation, and his promise to his mother. What sorcery has caused him to lose all of his powers? And why has his fiancée suddenly shown up?

Original Story can be found here: [Link](#)

# Chapter 500: Illusionary Golden Flame

The moment Elder Hao announced that the match had begun, the gazes of the entire stadium suddenly turned toward the two people behind the cauldrons. The noisiness had also gradually become much quieter.

Xiao Yan's gaze slowly but carefully swept across the medicinal ingredients on the stone table. Upon realizing that there was nothing missing, he finally nodded slightly and waved his hand. A dark red medicinal cauldron appeared on the stone table in front of him.

The medicinal cauldron which Xiao Yan was using was not some high grade item. Moreover, he had used it too many times during this recent period of time. Hence, it resulted in the color on the surface of the medicinal cauldron appearing slightly dimmer. At a glance, it was seemed like a normal stove.

"Che..." Xiao Yan's medicinal cauldron had just appeared when Han Xian who had been looking over from the side not far away could not resist laughing out loud. He quietly shook his head and said with a laugh in his heart, "Looks like I have overestimated this fellow a little..." In the Alchemist world, a good medicinal cauldron was like a sharp weapon in the hands of a warrior; it could enable one's refining success to increase greatly. Now that Han Xian saw that the medicinal cauldron Xiao Yan was using was actually this worn-out, there was naturally some disdain in his heart.

After the words in Han Xian's heart appeared, he also waved his hand. Immediately, a medicinal cauldron with a golden-yellow-colored surface flashed and appeared. When the sunlight shone on its body, it would reflect eye-piercing light, causing people to have no choice but to shift away their gazes.

From just looking at the external aura of these two medicinal cauldrons, there was undoubtedly an enormous difference between them. One of them was like a tattered dog in the fields while the other was completely covered with gold and silver, like an extremely bright and ostentatious pet

dog.

Xiao Yan ignored those somewhat mocking gazes from everywhere. His gaze swept over the medicinal cauldron in front of him before his finger touched a superficial crack on the surface of the medicinal cauldron. He involuntarily furrowed his brows slightly as he helplessly said in his heart, “The strength of the ‘Heavenly Flame’ is really too great. This low grade medicinal cauldron has difficulty enduring such temperature. After this is over, I should think of a way to get a medicinal cauldron that can handle it. Now, hopefully this thing can still endure until I finish the refinement...

Xiao Yan quietly sighed in his heart. He suddenly sensed a hot undulation and lifted his eyebrows immediately. When he turned his head over, he saw that Han Xian was dragging a cluster of flame with his hand. The color of the flame was similar to that of his medicinal cauldron. It was a shiny golden color and was extremely attractive to the eye. Moreover, if one were to take a careful look at it, one could see that there was gold-colored lava flowing within the flame, appearing very strange.

“Huh?” Xiao Yan’s eyes stared at the cluster of golden-colored flame as his heart softly voiced out an exclamation. It was really unexpected that this fellow actually possessed such a flame treasure. When Xiao Yan used his Spiritual Strength to look at it, this golden-colored flame may be far incomparable to that of a ‘Heavenly Flame,’ but it could be considered a type of extremely unique flame. Moreover, from the looks of the heat that seeped out from the air, this flame might well be one level better than the Purple Flame he had just by comparing the degree of heat.

“This Han Xian is not someone without any ability...” Xiao Yan was somewhat startled as he swept over Han Xian’s face. However, he found a proudness within those eyes. Immediately, Xiao Yan helplessly smiled and quietly thought to himself that he should withdraw the words.

In the eyes of Xiao Yan who was an expert in this field, the flame in Han Xian’s hand may not appear to be overly surprisingly, but in the view of the students in the stadium, it was very exotic. An essence flame could also be materialized by just relying on Dou Qi, but that would at least require the strength of a Dou Wang. Moreover, no matter how Dou Qi

materialize, it still lacked some authenticity when compared to a real flame. Moreover, this cluster of golden-colored flame possessed an extreme amount of entertainment value. The flowing gold-colored lava within it caused the people around to feel that it was inconceivable.

“This flame of mine is called the ‘Illusionary Golden Flame.’ It is named after the baby Magical Beast of the rank seven ‘Illusionary Fire Scorpion Dragon Beast’ that breaks out of its shell. However, this ‘Illusionary Golden Flame’ would remain within the shell and the shell would be incinerated by this additional flame within three days. If one wants to obtain this kind of ‘Illusionary Golden Flame,’ one can only help to find the shell of the baby ‘Illusionary Fire Scorpion Dragon Beast’ during these three days...” The numerous strange gazes from the stadium caused the vanity in Han Xian’s heart to actually be unable to control himself as he laughed in a clear voice.

“Rank seven ‘Illusionary Fire Scorpion Dragon Beast?’” The moment these words left Han Xian’s mouth, not only did the expressions of the students below change drastically, but even the faces of Elder Hao and the other Elders also moved slightly. Rank Seven. That was an ultimately strong being that could be comparable to the Dou Zong class. It is really unexpected that this extremely beautiful and coquettish golden-colored flame actually had such an origin.

“No wonder it is even fiercer than the Purple Flame on the body of the Amethyst Winged Lion. It is actually from an ‘Illusionary Fire Scorpion Dragon Beast’ that is one rank higher... this fellow is really lucky.” Surprise involuntarily flashed across Xiao Yan’s eyes when he heard Han Xian’s words. In this vast world, there were all sorts of strange things. The various kinds of flames could cause people to be dazzled and surprised. Just this kind of Magical Beast flame was so beautiful. One really did not know just what kind of elegant demeanor the flames on the ‘Heavenly Flame Ranking’ possessed.

As Xiao Yan recalled the so-called ‘Heavenly Flame Ranking,’ his heart quietly became a little fiery. He laughed softly. His finger shook slightly and a cluster of green-colored flame appeared in his palm. It flicked

within the flame, and the flame drew an arc in mid-air. Finally, it rushed into the medicine cauldron. In an instant, the whirring flame began to rise and burn within the medicinal cauldron.

The 'Green Lotus Core Flame' naturally attracted the attention of Han Xian who had been paying attention to Xiao Yan's side. Surprise immediately passed through Han Xian's eyes. It was indeed just like what the information had stated. Xiao Yan was in control of a green-colored flame of unknown background which was extremely overbearing. Now that Han Xian had seen it, he may not have witnessed it being overbearing, but from the color of its outer appearance, he could at least tell that it was the flame from his information.

"The flame is merely just an aid. The most important thing is a person's medicine refining skills." Han Xian smiled faintly. He waved his hand and the golden-colored flame also flashed into the golden yellow medicinal cauldron. In an instant, the golden medicinal cauldron with the golden-colored flame deposited in it became the spot which attracted the most attention within the entire stadium. On the other hand, there was hardly anyone who was paying attention to Xiao Yan's tranquil side.

Xiao Yan's gaze stared intently at the interior of the medicinal cauldron. His finger slowly passed through the medicinal ingredients on the stone table. Occasionally, his finger would randomly tap once and there would be a medicinal ingredient with a strange outer appearance being clipped between his fingers.

While Xiao Yan's eyes were staring intently, his mind was swiftly reading and flipping through the various information that was recorded on the medicinal formula. There were many medicinal ingredients needed to refine this 'Dragon Strength Pill.' If all of the many big and small ingredients were added, there would be over forty of them. The degree of fusion between the various medicinal ingredients were mixed with one another. It was really troublesome like dough that was kneaded together. If it were not for one being able to follow the medicinal formula and refine it step by step, the chances of success of one trying to refine it by stumbling randomly were extremely small...

However, even though Xiao Yan and Han Xian both looked at the medicinal formula and had remembered the information firmly in their heads, they still felt somewhat unfamiliar. After all, a tier five medicinal pill was not an ordinary object. A medicinal grade of this tier would also be able to be auctioned off for a sky high price. Hence, it would naturally be extremely difficult for one to refine it. This was especially even more difficult for Xiao Yan and Han Xian, both of whom were members of the younger generation who had yet to reach the level of a tier five alchemist.

Therefore, some of the Elders who knew a little about medicine refining, adopted a mentality of watching the fun. Han Xian's alchemist skill was around that of a tier four alchemist. His failure rate when asked to refine a tier five medicinal pill was so high that it would leave one speechless. As for Xiao Yan, although these Elders knew that this little fellow possessed a type of green-colored 'Heavenly Flame,' possessing a 'Heavenly Flame' did not represent how outstanding his medicinal refining skill was. Therefore... asking these two little fellows to refine a tier five medicinal pill was an extremely terrible decision. Did one think that those rare medicinal ingredients were free?

Of course, Xiao Yan and Han Xian did not know just what these Elders were thinking in their hearts. Otherwise, they would naturally feel dispirited and speechless. At this moment, both of them had taken their first steps into the problem which was determining which process to proceed with first due to the complicated steps.

For a moment, everyone in the stadium could only watch the two fellows in the arena staring foolishly at the flame in the middle of the cauldron. Some of the students who did not understand the reason for it actually treated this as an initial step in refining pills...

They were in a daze for nearly two to three minutes before Xiao Yan became the first to recover. He frowned slightly and inhaled a breath of air. His fingers, which were full of medicinal ingredients between them, shook slightly. Two kinds of medicinal pills which were like withered leaves were thrown into the cauldron.

Xiao Yan right hand aimed at the medicinal cauldron with a gap

between them as his fingers danced agilely. Following this movement, the rising green-colored flame within the medicinal cauldron repeatedly became distorted. The temperature that it emitted was high at certain moments and low at other moments.

Xiao Yan's face was solemn. His right hand controlled the intensity of the flame while his left hand began to dance on the stone table, forming a shadow that caused people to be dazzled. One kind of medicinal ingredient after another was tossed into the air before forming a parabola as it fell into the medicinal cauldron. Finally, they were swallowed by the flame.

The tossing and dancing of the medicinal ingredients in the air above the stone table never paused. When they saw Xiao Yan's action of finishing everything in one go, shocked voices began to appear in the stadium. Being attracted by the shocked sound, even Han Xian, who was deep in thought by the side also turned his head over. When he saw Xiao Yan's nearly unceasingly refinement of the medicinal ingredients, his face involuntarily became instantly dull.

The eyes of Elder Hao, who was standing with his hands behind his back in the arena, flickered at this moment. This technique that Xiao Yan displayed appeared to be as natural as the moving clouds and flowing water. There was not even the slightest pause between them. There was much to admire when one looked at it.

“Puff...”

Under the focus of all the gazes in the stadium, an extremely depressing sound was suddenly emitted from the stone table. Immediately, Xiao Yan's hand paused abruptly. He frowned slightly as his hand grabbed a medicinal ingredient that was about to fall into the medicinal cauldron in a lightning-like manner. He glanced at the empty medicinal cauldron and could not help but shake his head. Earlier, he had split his attention into two and was a little careless. The temperature of the flame was slightly higher, resulting in the medicinal liquid, which had completed half of the merger, to be vaporized.

“What a pity...”

Xiao Yan's first failure immediately caused the crowd in the stadium who were looking at him without turning their eyes away to sigh.

Han Xian finally laughed coldly by the side when he saw Xiao Yan's first failure. In his heart, he said quietly, “Keep showing off...”

After mocking quietly in his heart, Han Xian ignored Xiao Yan who was deep in thought. He turned his head and threw his gaze to his medicinal cauldron. His expression gradually became solemn. A moment later, he inhaled a deep breath of air. With a wave of his hand, he threw a medicinal ingredient into his medicinal cauldron.

Following Han Xian throwing a medicinal ingredient into the medicinal cauldron. The focus of everyone in the stadium was involuntarily gathered around him. The corner of his mouth was lifted with pride when he sensed the gazes which were thrown over. However, the proud smile had yet to spread open when it suddenly solidified at the slight ‘Pu Chi’ sound emitted from within the medicinal cauldron after the eighth medicinal ingredient was thrown into it.

“Ai...” Everyone in the stadium initially widened their eyes to watch Han Xian's stiffened expression. A moment later, they involuntarily emitted some mocking laughter. In this first round of merging the medicinal ingredients, it was obvious that he was more of a failure compared to Xiao Yan. At the very least, Xiao Yan had refined over twenty medicinal ingredients before he was distracted, causing his effort to come to naught. Han Xian, however, had failed when he had just refined the eighth medicinal ingredient. This gap was something that even these people, who were laymen that did not know about refining medicinal pills, could tell.

In this first refinement, the both of them ended up in failure. However in this failure, it appeared that Xiao Yan was a little more handsome.



# Chapter 501: Half Finished Product

Han Xian's expression clearly became much uglier when he heard the laughter that sounded in the stadium. A snort that suppressed his anger was emitted from his throat. His eyes stared at the golden-colored flame still rising in the medicinal cauldron. Once again, his palm swiftly grabbed the medicinal ingredients on the stone table and threw them into the medicinal cauldron.

This time around, Han Xian clearly paid much more attention compared to earlier. However, his mind had similarly formed some ripples because of his first failure.

Xiao Yan on the other side had completely shut his eyes at this moment. He did not make even the slightest movement from Han Xian's action. When they saw his strange manner, the crowd in the stadium involuntarily became a little astonished.

In the arena, the medicinal ingredients on the stone table were thrown into the medicinal cauldron one at a time by Han Xian. This time around, he clearly managed to progress further than before. Under his attentive focus, he had refined over twenty medicinal ingredients within a short five minutes. Seeing that his condition this time around was this good, those members of the 'Medicine Gang' which had come to cheer for him could not help but applaud and cheer.

"This Han Xian is indeed worthy of being a tier four alchemist. He does indeed has some foundation... what exactly is that fellow Xiao Yan doing?" Hu Jia involuntarily frowned and asked softly as she eyed Han Xian who had gradually exceeded the number of medicinal ingredients that Xiao Yan had refined in his first attempt. Her voice held a little worry.

Xun Er nodded. Her pupils rested on the closed-eyed Xiao Yan as she softly said, "There is no need to be anxious. There is still a lot of time. Moreover, Xiao Yan ge-ge still has two attempts." Although she spoke in this manner, her heart was a little anxious. Xun Er did not have very deep knowledge about the world of Alchemists. Therefore, she could not

maintain her usual strong confidence toward Xiao Yan.

Under Han Xian's increasingly fast refining speed, some of the initial laughter in the stadium was completely annihilated. However, compared with these students, some of the sharp eyed Elders mused for a moment before shaking their heads slightly.

"Refining pills does not stress on speed. Instead, it requires a heart that is not disturbed by other things. Han Xian's heart has already developed some fluctuations from his earlier failure. Although his progress is very good now, but... perhaps it cannot be maintained for long." In the arena, Elder Hao placed his hands behind his back. He eyed the extremely busy Han Xian and furrowed his brows a little while sighing softly in his heart.

"Xiao Yan is performing extremely well on this point. Han Xian, however, has fallen into a disadvantage. Xiao Yan is indeed worthy of being a person that the First Elder has requested to take care of by name. He already possesses such a strong mental strength at such an age. His potential is indeed extraordinary." Elder Hao gaze turned toward the closed-eyed Xiao Yan. From the latter's increasingly calm breath, he could sense that the earlier failure had not shaken his mind by even a little.

"Puff..."

A low and deep sound suddenly sounded on the arena. Upon hearing this sound, the hearts of everyone suddenly sunk. Their gazes followed the sound and looked over only to see the pale-faced Han Xian with a trembling body. Immediately, they let out a sigh. It was really unexpected that a mistake would actually appear during his refinement, which appeared extremely smooth.

"Why... why did I fail again?" Han Xian expression was pale-white. His eyes stared intently at the medicinal cauldron as his mouth repeatedly muttered. Earlier, he had successfully refined all of the medicinal ingredients that he needed and was waiting to carefully merge them. However, at this juncture, his mood fluctuated quietly. The suppressed flame erupted with a wave of high temperature, completely incinerating the medicinal essence which he had refined with much difficulty into dark

black soot. How could this not cause Han Xian to receive a blow?

Han Xian repeatedly muttered in his mouth. Having failed twice consecutively in public had caused Han Xian's pale-white face to gradually form an angry green.

"Hu..." Just as Han Xian was buried in failure, Xiao Yan to his side suddenly let out a long breath. The former turned his head and took a look. Xiao Yan, who had shut his eyes for over ten minutes had actually opened them at this moment. Moreover, he even stretched his lazy waist; the manner was as though he had just woken up.

Xiao Yan smiled at Han Xian when he saw the latter looking over. After which, he ignored Han Xian's ugly expression. He waved his hand, and a cluster of green-colored flame poured into the medicinal cauldron. After which, his left hand would occasionally pick up a medicinal ingredient and throw it into the medicinal cauldron. Looking at this calm manner, it was totally different from his earlier manner of appearing like he was facing an enemy. Moreover, the medicinal pill that he was refining in his hand did not seem to feel like a tier five medicinal pill but merely some low tiered medicinal pill.

Seeing Xiao Yan waking up from his closed-eye state, Xun Er's group sighed in relief. They eyed the smiling face of Xiao Yan and although they did not know what exactly happened, they felt that the current Xiao Yan appeared very different from earlier. While they felt this, they were unable to voice just what kind of change had occurred with words. It was rather mysterious.

Elder Hao in the arena could not help but let out a somewhat surprised 'huh' sound when he saw this disposition of Xiao Yan. Immediately, his gaze was mingled with the spot where those few old fellows were hiding. All of them managed to sense the shock from the others' eyes. There was no need to mention whether Xiao Yan would be able to successfully refine the pill. Just this state of mind which was like an old well without ripples was sufficient to provide him with quite a great reward.

As Han Xian watched Xiao Yan beginning to refine once again, he once

again took a glance at the one set of remaining medicinal ingredients on the stone table. His extended hand suddenly paused for a moment before he immediately withdrew it. He could not continue to carelessly waste this final chance.

Han Xian stopped his actions and once again turned his gaze toward Xiao Yan. He let out a cold malicious laugh in his heart, "A pretentious fellow. Believe me. You will definitely fail..."

Perhaps Han Xian's curse had a certain effect. Just as Xiao Yan threw in the last few medicinal ingredients into the medicinal cauldron, the cluster of red-colored liquid that was merged from dozens of medicinal ingredients essence suddenly began to fluctuate intensely. Immediately, it erupted with an extremely powerful force. With a 'bang', it shot the cover of the medicinal cauldron into the sky. With the rise of the cauldron's cover, the medicinal liquid inside also spilled out before finally being scattered on the ground.

"Ugh..."

Everyone in the stadium eyed the movement on Xiao Yan's side. All of them involuntarily widened their mouths and once again emitted a regretful sigh.

"Hee hee..." Han Xian finally sighed in relief upon seeing Xiao Yan's failure. He turned his gaze toward the final set of medicinal ingredients on the stone table. He spoke in his heart, "Looks like the both of us won't be able to refine the 'Dragon Strength Pill.' I also do not intend to succeed. As long as the failed product that I refine is better than Xiao Yan's, that will do..."

As this thought flashed across his heart, Han Xian once again raised his flame. After which, he began his final attempt at refinement.

However, with this kind of mental state during the refinement of the pill, where he had already adopted the thought of refining a failed product, how would he be able to refine a true medicinal pill?

Xiao Yan was unconcerned about the regretful sigh from the stadium. He extended out his hand and a suction force swarmed out, sucking back

the medicinal cauldron's cover that had fallen on the ground back. After which, he gently covered it over the medicinal cauldron. The reflected green-colored flame in his dark black eyes was dancing slightly.

“So it is like this...”

Xiao Yan's gaze stared at the rising green-colored flame before he suddenly laughed softly. After two failures, he had faintly grasped where some of the profoundness of this 'Dragon Strength Pill' lay. Therefore, this time around, he did not rest the slightest or have any hesitation. His right hand controlled the flame in the medicinal cauldron as his left hand slowly moved on the stone table. Suddenly, his hand paused. Soon after, his arm turned into numerous afterimages. Following the appearance of these afterimages, the medicinal ingredients began to be thrown into the medicinal cauldron in an unceasing matter where the end of a medicinal ingredient was in contact with the other. This speed was even faster than his first attempt at refining.

Upon seeing this terrifying refining speed, everyone in the stadium was stunned. Xiao Yan had failed even after carefully refining earlier. Now, he still dared to be this fast? Does this fellow intend to break the pot and give up?

Xun Er's group was similarly a little stunned by Xiao Yan's actions. They exchanged glances with one another and could only maintain silence. They did not dare say anything to interrupt.

Under the focus of everyone's gaze, the two people in the arena, who had poured all their attention into the refining, had begun the final refinement. Moreover, the medicinal ingredients on the table were gradually becoming less...

Time quietly flowed by from between one's fingers. The short ten plus minutes were extremely long in everyone's eyes. A green and a gold flame were rising independently in the arena...

Xun Er's group focused intently on Xiao Yan. Their tightly clenched palms were filled with perspiration without them realizing it. However, just when their gazes did not turn, a faint medicinal fragrance was

suddenly emitted from the arena. Everyone was immediately startled. Soon after, their expressions changed slightly. Their gazes followed the direction from which the medicinal fragrance came from, and turned toward the interior of Han Xian's medicinal cauldron.

The medicinal fragrance similar attracted all the other gazes in the stadium. In a moment, numerous surprised gazes were gathered on Han Xian's body. He appeared to be about to successfully refine it?

Elder Hao narrowed his eyes. A moment later, he helplessly shook his head. This fellow had actually automatically given up the chance of successfully refining the medicinal pill. Instead, he had in turn aimed to refine a kind of failed product. Elder Hao understood what Han Xian was thinking. It was likely that the later thought that Xiao Yan would also not be able to successfully refine the 'Dragon Strength Pill.' Therefore, since everyone was unable to successfully refine a medicinal pill, they would compete on whose failed product was better... this kind of thinking... really left one speechless.

“Bang!”

Another two to three minutes passed. Han Xian waved his hand abruptly and the cover of the medicinal pill automatically fell. A mottled-colored medicinal pill with a somewhat rounded shape flew out from the medicinal cauldron, and was immediately snatched by his hand.

Han Xian lowered his head to eye the medicinal pill in his hand which had a mottled color and an abnormal shape. Regardless of how thick Han Xian's face was, some red flush also involuntarily appeared on it. However, the moment he thought it was better for him to have a half-finished product compared to a completely failed product, he felt a little better. He swiftly walked away from the stone table and handed the medicinal pill in his hand to Elder Hao.

Elder Hao felt neither able to laugh nor cry when he received the medicinal pill from Han Xian's hand. Could this thing even be called a medicinal pill?

“Ah...” Elder Hao sighed and carelessly held the medicinal pill. However,

he ignored Han Xian and threw his gaze toward Xiao Yan whose entire attention was focused on his medicinal cauldron. A long while later, he suddenly glanced at Han Xian by the side and faintly said, "I'm afraid that Xiao Yan's chances of winning are larger than yours this time around."

Han Xian's expression was a little ugly when he heard this. His gaze stared intently at Xiao Yan before he coldly said, "That may not be the case..."

# Chapter 502: Fortunate Not to Fail One's Expectations

Following the completion of Han Xian's refinement, some private conversations involuntarily sounded within the stadium.

"Has that fellow successfully refined it?" Wu Hao was extremely familiar with combat, but he totally knew nothing about refining pills. When he saw Han Xian walk away from the stone table, and hand over the medicinal pill in his hand to Elder Hao, his eyebrows were involuntarily knit together.

"I don't think so. It is rumored that when a tier five medicinal pill takes shape, there would be some unusual phenomena. However, other than a wave of ordinary medicinal fragrance earlier, not even the slightest unusual phenomenon occurred. Moreover, the expression of that Elder Hao does not appear to be that of someone who has just seen a tier five medicinal pill." Xun Er mused for a moment before shaking her head slightly as she softly spoke.

Wu Hao and the rest at the side nodded slightly when they heard Xun Er's analysis. They lifted their gazes, and turned their attention toward Xiao Yan, who was still pouring all his attention into the refinement. They spoke softly, "However, even if Han Xian did not successfully refine it, he does at least have something to hand over. If Xiao Yan's hands still remain empty like earlier, the victory would still go to Han Xian even if the both of them eventually fail in the refinement."

"Just pray that Xiao Yan ge-ge can successfully refine it." Xun Er laughed bitterly. At this moment, she could only speak in such a comforting manner. Xiao Yan appeared to be unaware that he was being attentively watched by all of the gazes in the stadium. His eyes were staring intently into the medicinal cauldron. A large cluster of pale-red medicinal liquid was swiftly rolling above the fiery green flame. Even though Xiao Yan was isolated from it by a thick medicinal cauldron, Xiao Yan was still able to clearly sense the enormous strength contained in this cluster of liquid



through the Spiritual Strength which he had extended into the cauldron.

“The refinement is completed. Next... should be the merger...” Xiao Yan’s eyes stared at the rolling pale-red-colored medicinal liquid as he softly muttered in his heart.

The last time, he had failed at this point. Therefore, Xiao Yan, who clearly knew the reason for his failure last time around, split his Spiritual Strength into two and poured all of it into the medicinal cauldron. One of it firmly suppressed the flame while the other wrapped the medicinal liquid in a lightning-like manner. After which, this potion abruptly unleashed an enormous suppressing strength.

Seemingly having sensed the pressure around it, the pale-red-colored liquid began to fluctuate intensely. Each time it fluctuated, there would be an extremely powerful ripple swarming out. Finally, it would collide with the large invisible hand formed by the Spiritual Strength.

“Bang!”

The medicinal cauldron on the stone table abruptly trembled. A clear sound of collision was emitted from within it.

Xiao Yan’s expression also changed slightly as the medicinal cauldron shook. His feet abruptly stomped on the ground. His hand which was some distance away from the medicinal cauldron suddenly moved forward and violently grabbed. That manner was as though it wanted to shatter the air in front of him.

As Xiao Yan’s hand tightened its grip, the intense rolling medicinal liquid in the medicinal cauldron suddenly became sluggish. The invisible large hand that was formed from the surrounding Spiritual Strength had instantly soared. The originally large cluster of medicinal liquid was already the size of a ping pong ball at this moment. However, the moment that it was shrunk to this extent, it descended into an intense resistance. No matter what happened, it refused to proceed to the final step.

A flush redness gradually swarmed onto Xiao Yan’s white face under the unbudging resistance of the medicinal liquid. He did not expect that this ‘Dragon Strength Pill’ was actually this difficult to refine. This degree of

resistance was something that even the 'Three-Lines Green Spirit Pill' could not be compared with. However, Xiao Yan also clearly knew in his heart that if he could successfully refine this 'Dragon Strength Pill' this time around, he would likely be able to advance to the tier five alchemist level.

The change in Xiao Yan's expression was similarly noticed by everyone in the stadium. The earlier situation of the medicinal cauldron was also seen by them. Immediately, they raised their hearts to their throats and their eyes were unblinking.

"Refining a tier five medicinal pill was already this difficult. I really don't know just how tough refining an even higher tier medicinal pill would be?" During the time that Xiao Yan's Spiritual Strength was contending with the strength contained within the medicinal liquid, a thought swiftly flashed across Xiao Yan's heart. He immediately inhaled a deep breath of hot air. His face was instantly filled with a flush redness. His right hand which was facing the medicinal cauldron from a distant gradually opened. After which, it once again trembled as it was slowly gripped. A low and deep cry was emitted from his throat, "Merge now!"

As his cry fell, Xiao Yan suddenly clenched his hand tightly. Following the tightening of his grip, the ping-pong-sized liquid within the medicinal cauldron suddenly shook. Immediately, it shrunk at a speed visible to the naked eye. In just an instant, the medicinal liquid actually disappeared. Replacing it was a pale-red-colored embryonic medicinal pill the size of a thumb.

With the medicinal pill taking shape, the most difficult step was over. Xiao Yan's forehead was covered with cold perspiration as he swiftly gulped down a couple of breaths of air. The firmly suppressed green-colored flame also slowly began to release a hot temperature, grilling the irregularly shaped embryonic medicinal pill.

The medicinal pill currently in Xiao Yan's medicinal cauldron was different from the half finished product that Han Xian had taken out earlier. It was the true initial form of a pill. From the outer appearance of this medicinal pill, its initial formation stage may be similarly irregular

but its luster was completely different than Han Xian's mottled half-finished product. If one were to consume the half-finished product of the Han Xian, no one would know whether one's strength would surge for a short period of time or whether one's body would be ravaged by the randomly mixed medicinal ingredients until it exploded and perished. This was because no one would dare to try and eat that thing...

This medicinal pill within Xiao Yan's cauldron may merely be at its initial form but it already possessed some preliminary medicinal effect of the 'Dragon Strength Pill.' If one were to consume it at this moment, the surge in strength that one would experience would definitely be incomparable to a real finished medicinal pill, but it would at the very least not pose a threat to one's life.

From the looks of these few points, the victor could actually be already determined in this match...

Elder Hao smiled and nodded as he eyed Xiao Yan who was panting in a similarly dehydrated manner. He slowly fondled his beard and turned his head to watch the pale-faced Han Xian. From the looks of Han Xian's face, Han Xian clearly understood that with just that half-finished product of his, he could not win against this initial form of the medicinal pill that Xiao Yan had refined.

"Ke ke, Han Xian, I am right, aren't I?" Elder Hao tossed that half-finished product from Han Xian in his hand as he involuntarily laughed.

The corner of Han Xian mouth twitched. His voice was extremely awful as he smiled and said, "Elder, the competition had not reached its end... in the pill refining procedure, condensing a pill is indeed the most difficult step, but there are still quite a number of steps that cause people to have a headache behind. If Xiao Yan were to make even a slightest mistake during those steps, it is likely that he would waste even the final opportunity. At that time... I will at least have a half-finished product."

"In that case, let's continue to watch." Seeing Han Xian, whose mouth was still firm at this moment, Elder Hao smiled. He did not continue to say any nonsense as he turned his body and once again threw his gaze toward

Xiao Yan.

The green-colored flame seedling within the medicinal cauldron was repeatedly leaping. The hot temperature caused the medicinal cauldron to be turned into a furnace. The initially formed medicinal pill, whose appearance was a little irregular, was slowly turning into a round shape under this grilling. The luster on the surface of it was also increasingly bright. Looking from afar, it was like a red-colored gem which was emitting a radiant glow within the green-colored flame.

After the initial condensed pill took shape, the remaining steps of grilling, polishing etc. were perfectly finished by Xiao Yan. However, such precise control caused the cold sweat on Xiao Yan's forehead to become increasingly concentrated. His face also had an additional paleness under his harried breathing. All of this indicated that Xiao Yan was fast reaching his limit.

Han Xian, whose expression was originally become uglier and uglier after Xiao Yan had successfully completed one step after another, revealed a cold smile on his face when he saw Xiao Yan's expression. His heart repeatedly cursed for Xiao Yan's Spiritual Strength to be exhausted.

This curse of Han Xian naturally would not always come true. Moreover, he had also underestimated Xiao Yan's tenacity. Although the breathing of the latter was rapid, those dark-black pupils were still clear and were not the least bit shaken by external factors.

Xiao Yan's gaze stared into the interior of the medicinal cauldron. A dark red-colored medicinal pill was partially visible under the green-colored flame seedling. At this moment, the medicinal pill had already restrained the earlier dazzle. At a glance, it was an ordinary medicinal pill and did not have even the slightest bit of the prominent outer appearance of a tier five medicinal pill.

Xiao Yan's eyes was unblinking as he stared at that dark-red medicinal pill. At this moment, the medicinal pill was nearly completely spherical. Xiao Yan clearly knew in his heart that this tier five 'Dragon Strength Pill' was about to form a true pill!

The dark-red-colored medicinal pill began to roll and rotate within the flame. Following the increase in its rotating intensity, the high temperature within the green-colored flame was converted into a small distorted energy pillar that was pouring into the medicinal pill unceasingly.

“Clang!”

During the rotation, there was suddenly a circular dark-red-colored energy ripple that surged out from within the dark-red medicinal pill. Finally, it heavily smashed on the inner walls of the medicinal cauldron, emitting a clear sound.

Xiao Yan’s face gradually became solemn as he sensed this change of the dark-red medicinal pill. He clearly knew of the chaotic energy that was created from the formation of a tier five medicinal pill. Back then, when he was flying to the Vast Tager Desert from the Jia Ma Empire, this kind of abnormal phenomenon had also appeared when Yao Lao was refining a tier five medicinal pill on the Flying Beast!

“Crack...”

After the clear sound disappeared, there was suddenly an extremely weak quiet sound which appeared like thunder in Xiao Yan’s ears.

Xiao Yan’s eyes shrunk. His gaze turned toward the surface of the medicinal cauldron, only to realize that a tiny crack line was slowly beginning to spread. Immediately, he involuntarily lamented in his heart. How many times had his cauldron exploded when he was refining a medicinal pill?

“Clang!”

Another energy ripple was emitted from within the medicinal pill. The crack line also swiftly diverged out, and slowly spread to the entire body of the medicinal cauldron.

The crack lines were increasingly dense. At the end, even those people in the stadium came to discover the changes of the medicinal cauldron. As they eyed the faint green-colored flame that seeped out from the cauldron,

everyone gently inhaled a breath of cool air. Some of the female students even involuntarily covered their mouths. Who would have expected that at the final moment, there would actually be such misfortune that left one speechless.

Elder Hao's expression also changed at this moment. He knit his eyebrows tightly while his gaze focused intently at the medicinal cauldron. A moment later, he raised his eyebrows and watched the young man behind the medicinal cauldron. The corner of the latter's mouth contained a helpless smile.

At this moment, Han Xian's face was initially stunned before the stunned look quickly changed into a gloating smile. This was especially after he heard the clear cracking sound. That smile of his became much denser after that.

“Cra...”

Under everyone's gazes, the crack lines that were spreading on the medicinal cauldron suddenly came to a slow stop. Seeing this, everyone had just sighed in relief when they once again heard the dark-red medicinal pill within the medicinal cauldron unleashing an extremely violent energy ripple.

The energy ripple spread out and suddenly made contact with the medicinal cauldron. Finally... everyone heard a low explosion sound. The medicinal cauldron fragments flew and shot all over the sky...

“His effort has fallen short...”

Elder Hao sighed extremely regretfully as he eyed the stone table area where a faint white fog had rose because of the cauldrons explosion. If Xiao Yan's medicinal cauldron was of a higher tier, he did not doubt that this fellow would be able to successfully refine this 'Dragon Strength Pill.'

“Ugh...”

Everyone in the stadium let out a long sigh. They felt that the final failure was wasted.

Han Xian was stunned as he watched the sudden explosion of the

cauldron. A moment later, the corner of Han Xian's mouth split with a smile. However, just as he was unable to resist laughing out loud, a coughing sound was emitted from within the white fog. The sound of footsteps immediately sounded, and a black-robed young man with a somewhat miserable appearance slowly walked out.

At this moment, there were some black spots on Xiao Yan's face. His black robes were also burned until there were curled up areas and charred holes. Blood was repeatedly dripping from his tightly clenched fist. The blood fell onto the ground and splashed into a blood flower.

Everyone maintained silence when they saw Xiao Yan's current appearance. In their hearts, they felt that he did not deserve this.

Han Xian similarly felt somewhat stunned at Xiao Yan's outer appearance. However, he quickly recovered. He took a step forward, shrugged his shoulders at Xiao Yan before smiling and saying, "Junior Xiao Yan, failure during the refinement of pills is something common. You should not be bothered about it. Those three medicinal formulas..."

Xiao Yan faintly glanced at the gloating smile filled face of this person. He slowly took a step forward and immediately brushed past him, not paying even the slightest attention to the latter.

Xiao Yan's disregard caused Han Xian's expression to sink. He spread his hands and muttered, "People who fail are always like this..." As he thought in this manner within his heart, he turned his body while wearing a smile. Soon after, the smile gradually became fainter until it disappeared.

After brushing passed Han Xian, Xiao Yan stopped in front of Elder Hao. The latter appeared to be still thinking of how to comfort this young fellow with extraordinary potential when Xiao Yan extended his hand that was covered with blood and finally opened it slowly.

As Xiao Yan's palm opened, a dark-red-colored round medicinal pill, with some blood stains on it, quietly appeared in front of a countless number of shocked gazes!

"Ke ke, Elder Hao. I was fortunate not to fail to meet your expectations."

Xiao Yan held his chest and gently coughed. His soft slow voice slowly reverberated throughout the stadium, causing respect for the black-robed young man to rise in the hearts of a countless number of people.



# Chapter 503: Victory

The entire stadium descended into silence because of the dark-red medicinal pill that lay quietly in the hands of the black-robed young man. A long while later, the silence was finally broken by a furious voice. One could see Han Xian swiftly walking over to where Xiao Yan was. His reddened eyes were just like a gambler who had lost until he was bankrupt, "Impossible, there is definitely some fraud. This fellow must have used the opportunity of the rising white fog earlier to cheat!"

When they heard Han Xian furious roar after losing himself, not only did most of the people in the stadium frown, but displeasure also quickly flashed across Elder Hao's face. Xiao Yan had refined under his very eyes. If one said that Xiao Yan had cheated, did that not mean that person was mocking him, saying his old eyes were muddled.

"Student Han Xian. Please pay attention to your words. It is not up to you to decide whether it is fair." Elder Hao coldly glanced at Han Xian as he cried out.

Hearing Elder Hao snap at him, Han Xian finally recovered from the state where he lost himself. He hurriedly bowed and apologized when he saw the displeasure on the former's face. He clearly understood just what kind of power these Elders had within the Inner Academy.

Elder Hao's expression only became slightly better when he saw Han Xian apologizing. His gaze turned toward Xiao Yan. Those stern eyes contained a praise that was not the least bit hidden. With such talent and mental strength, whoever could take him in as a disciple was really lucky.

"Elder Hao, please verify it. Otherwise, some people might not accept it." Xiao Yan smiled at Elder Hao as he waved his hand.

Hearing this, Elder Hao hesitated for a moment before he immediately smiled and nodded. He extended his finger and carefully took the tier five medicinal pill and placed it within his hand. Those eyes contained some hot fieriness. This kind of tier five medicinal pill had extremely noticeable effects on elite Dou Wangs like himself. If they were to consume one in a

fight with others, the sudden increased in strength would obtain a unique effect of catching the other person by surprise.

During Elder Hao's examination, there were suddenly some human figures flashing at the bottom of the stadium. Immediately, a couple of old figures also rushed into the arena. They smiled at Xiao Yan before surrounding Elder Hao. Those eyes of their contained some surprise as they studied the pale-red medicinal pill.

"You old fellows..." Elder Hao immediately rolled his eyes when he saw these few people surrounding him. He helplessly shook his head and raised the medicinal pill in front of him and said, "Take a look. This should indeed be a 'Dragon Strength Pill' that has just come out of a cauldron. This medicinal pill still contains some heat."

"Ah. That cannot be fake. I have seen Old Huo from the Alchemist Department refining this 'Dragon Strength Pill' before. It is indeed this color and scent." An old man, who was wearing an Elder badge on his chest, fondled his beard and nodded slightly as he praised with a smile.

"It is really unexpected that this fellow could actually refine this 'Dragon Strength Pill' after only entering the Inner Academy for no more than three months. This medicinal pill is something that only extremely few people could refine even within the Alchemist Department." The other few Elders also spoke praises.

To the side, the expression of Han Xian, who had heard the conversation of these elders, involuntarily became much uglier.

After the few elders had gathered together and muttered for awhile, they turned their bodies and left the arena. However, as they passed by in front of Xiao Yan, all of them paused their footsteps and patted him on the shoulders. Their faces were filled with a warm smile and said, "Little fellow, if we need to refine any medicinal pill in the future, we may need to come and look for you to help out." These powerful Elders might not take much notice about some tier four Alchemist. However, a tier five alchemist was different. A medicinal pill of this tier would move most of these Elders' hearts. Therefore, now that they had seen that Xiao Yan was

able to refine a tier five medicinal pill, their attitude was naturally much more friendly.

“Ke ke, as long as Elders are able to prepare their own medicinal ingredients, Xiao Yan will definitely do his best.” Xiao Yan naturally did not reject these Elders as he immediately smiled and replied. After which, he flattered the Elders until they left this place full of smiles.

Xiao Yan sighed in relief after watching the last Elder leave the arena. He turned his head only to find the smiling face of Elder Hao. The corner of his mouth immediately twitched as he smiled and said, “If Elder Hao has anything that you need help with in the future, you can just come and find the little me. I will not reject you if it is within my ability.”

“Ke ke, in that case, I will thank you first.” When he heard Xiao Yan speak in this manner, the smile on Elder Hao’s face became much richer. In his heart, he sighed that he was right to be this judge.

“Cough, Han Xian, you have also heard the evaluation of those Elders earlier. Do you have any objections now?” Elder Hao turned his head. The smiling Elder Hao’s face immediately turned into an expressionless one as he spoke to Han Xian indifferently.

Han Xian’s expression was like that of a pork liver at this moment. A moment later, he finally shook his head, clenched his teeth and said, “No.”

Elder Hao nodded slightly and turned his head to the stadium. In a deep voice, he said, “The match is over. I announce that Xiao Yan is the victor in this pill refining competition!”

“Oh!”

The moment Elder Hao’s voice sounded, the members of ‘Pan’s Gate’ involuntarily cheered out loudly. Being infected by them, the other observers in the stadium also raised their hands high up and used their strength to clap, emitting a loud clapping sound above their heads that could move mountains and flip the seas.

Xiao Yan’s gaze met with Xun Er’s group at the lower part of the stadium. When he saw them raise their thumbs, he also involuntarily

laughed softly.

“Since you have already admitted defeat, you will hand over the five trading areas that you have promised as the stakes to ‘Pan’s Gate’ within three days. Moreover, you have to remove the hidden suppression of ‘Pan’s Gate.’” Elder Hao turned his head towards the gloomy faced Han Xian, and spoke indifferently after hearing the loud clapping sound.

“Yes.” Although blood was dripping in his heart, Han Xian could only shatter his teeth and swallow them since the stakes of the bet had been already released. He replied in a soft voice before flicking his sleeves and walking out of the arena. As he passed by Xiao Yan, he coldly said, “This matter is not over!”

Xiao Yan turned his head over and watched Han Xian walk out of the arena. He led the ‘Medicine Gang’ to angrily leave the stadium. His gaze also slowly became cold.

“Ke ke, Xiao Yan you can rest assured that since you both invited me to become the judge, I will guarantee that he will completely adhere to your betting agreement.” Elder Hao patted Xiao Yan’s shoulders and spoke with a smile.

“Thank you very much Elder.”

Elder Hao smiled. He played with the dark red-colored ‘Dragon Strength Pill’ in his hand, hesitated a little before handing it to Xiao Yan. He said, “This is also your victory prize. You should keep it.”

Although Elder Hao merely hesitated for a moment, it did not escape Xiao Yan’s eyes. Xiao Yan immediately smiled and said, “Elder Hao, the medicinal formula of this ‘Dragon Strength Pill’ is much more expensive than this one ‘Dragon Strength Pill.’ As an exchange, this pill is yours Elder Hao.”

Elder Hao’s heart was moved for a moment when he heard Xiao Yan’s words. However, he mused for a moment before shaking his head. He stuffed it into Xiao Yan’s hand and said with a bitter smile, “Forget it. The eyes of those old fellows also became fiery hot due to this ‘Dragon Strength Pill.’ If I were to keep this, I would likely be mocked by them. If

you have the heart, you can give the old me one of such pills if you have excess pills from your refinement. I will remember it.”

Xiao Yan hesitated when he heard this. He could only take back the ‘Dragon Strength Pill’ and stuff it into his storage ring. He smiled and said, “As long as I manage to find sufficient medicinal ingredients and refine it, I will give it to Elder at the first opportunity.”

“Ke ke, it is fine as long as you have the intention... as for medicinal ingredients, ke ke... the Inner Academy has stored an unknown amount during these years. That medicinal ingredient warehouse is also coincidentally managed by me. Ke. If you have any need in the future, you can come and look around.” Elder Hao smiled. There was a couple of twists in his words. After he spoke, he patted Xiao Yan shoulders. The meaning of which was something that only the both of them understood.

Xiao Yan was initially startled when he heard Elder Hao’s words before a joy immediately rushed from his eyes. He nodded his head at the former without leaving any traces. With the strength of the Inner Academy, it was likely they had stored quite a few rare and unique medicinal ingredients. These things had quite a great amount of attraction for Xiao Yan.

“Oh, that’s right...” After handing the medicinal pill to Xiao Yan, Elder Hao appeared to have recalled something. He frowned and said, “Since ‘Pan’s Gate’ that you manage is already officially selling medicinal pills, according to the rules, you must pay twenty-percent of the total ‘Fire Energy’ that you have obtained by selling such medicinal pills in bulk within the Inner Academy. In other words, if you have obtained one thousand days of ‘Fire Energy’ that month, you need to pay two hundred days worth.”

Xiao Yan’s face was immediately stunned when he heard this. What was this considered as? Paying taxes? Moreover, the tax was actually this expensive? A twenty-percent tax?

“Don’t stare at me like that. This is a rule of the Inner Academy.” Seeing Xiao Yan’s stare, Elder Hao could not help but shake his head, saying: “You know that selling pills is something that is immensely profitable.

Thus, the Inner Academy must have some restrictions. If we didn't have such rules, all of the Fire Energy would be in the hands of factions that sell pills. In these past years, the Medicine Gang also had such a tax rate."

Xiao Yan laughed bitterly before saying softly, "Isn't this tax a little too vicious? Elder you should know that the current price of the medicinal ingredients is also expensive. Moreover, it is not as though one would succeed every time one refines a medicinal pill."

"I also know this but the rule is like this..." Elder Hao parted his hand. When he saw Xiao Yan's tightly knit eyebrows, he hesitated for a moment before saying, "Ah, why don't we do this. In the future, your 'Pan's Gate' need only pay up ten percent. However, do not publicize this matter. Otherwise, that Han Xian would definitely be unhappy if the 'Medicine Gang' were to know about this."

"Elder can randomly adjust the tax rate?" Xiao Yan spoke with some surprise when he heard Elder Hao reduce the tax with just his words.

"Ke ke. Coincidentally, I am in charge of all the matters relating to the medicinal ingredients and medicinal pills within the Inner Academy." Elder Hao smiled. However, in his heart he said, "Moreover, the First Elder has said to take special care of you. I am not going against the rules by doing this..."

"In that case, thank you very much, Elder. In the future, I will definitely hand the 'Dragon Strength Pill' that I have refined to Elder first." Xiao Yan quietly sigh in relief in his heart. A decrease of fifty-percent was not a small sum. Xiao Yan immediately hurriedly gave his thanks.

Elder Hao smiled and nodded. He said, "Alright, I'm afraid that you have already reached your limit today due to the refinement of the pill. You should go back and rest first. Tomorrow, send some people to take over the trading area from the 'Medicine Gang.' Those are really good places..." Once he said this, Elder Hao took the lead to turn around and walk out of the stadium.

Xiao Yan nodded slightly. He also descended from the arena and waved his hand toward Xun Er's group. After which, that large group happily

swarmed out of the stadium under the focus of numerous fiery gazes.

# Chapter 504: Recruitment

Three days had passed since the pill refining competition. During these three days, Xiao Yan's amazing and envious medicinal refining skills were spread by word of mouth by most of the Inner Academy students.

At this moment, the reputation of Xiao Yan in the Inner Academy was likely comparable to that of those top experts in the top ten of the 'Strong Ranking.' An alchemist who could refine a tier five medicinal pill would be able to enjoy the same treatment as a strong Dou Wang or even a Dou Huang no matter where one was. One could get a glimpse of this from the suddenly warm attitude that those Inner Academy Elders suddenly displayed toward Xiao Yan.

In the past, those Elders merely treated Xiao Yan as a student with massive potential due to the quiet orders that First Elder gave to specially take care of Xiao Yan. However, they were now truly treating him as a person on the same level of them when they conversed. There was an additional politeness that was difficult to discern when they spoke or conversed. After all, these Elders clearly knew in their hearts that the value of an alchemist who could refine a tier five medicinal pill far exceeded a strong person of the Dou Wang class.

After clearly comprehending the difference in worth between the both of them. Some Elders naturally no longer displayed that haughtiness of an Elder in front of Xiao Yan. This was because they knew their status did not contain much suppressing force compared to Xiao Yan's. Since it was useless, what was the point of using their status to speak?

During the three days, Xiao Yan's reputation had soared within the Inner Academy. Moreover, Xiao Yan borrowed the reputation he had forged in the competition to spread the important news to the Inner Academy students that 'Pan's Gate' had begun to sell medicinal pills. After witnessing Xiao Yan's pill refinement in the Northern Stadium, quite a number of people became interested in the medicinal pills of 'Pan's Gate.' Furthermore, quite a number of people began to frequent the region outside of the new student area, wanting to purchase the pills beforehand.



Additionally, the five trading areas that the 'Medicine Gang' had promised were also successively taken over by 'Pan's Gate' due to Xiao Yan's victory in the competition. The 'Medicine Gang' was clearly extremely dismayed. They felt great pain handing over these trading areas with extremely high volumes of traffic, and had repeatedly found excuses to delay handing them over, this little ruse of the other party naturally crumbled after Xiao Yan invited Elder Hao to show his face.

Finally, under the expressionless face of Elder Hao, the 'Medicinal Gang' could only clench their teeth. They watched as members of 'Pan's Gate' removed the 'Medicinal Gang' insignia, engraved in the trading areas, and replace it with their own.

After these five trading areas entered into their hands, Xiao Yan and the rest truly felt what was called having a hot human traffic. In merely one day, nearly two hundred medicinal pills were sold. As they watched the soaring 'Fire Energy' on the Fire Crystal Card, Xiao Yan and the few others were involuntarily a little dumbfounded.

The medicinal pills were completely sold and the lock that the 'Medicine Gang' had placed on the medicinal ingredients had also been removed. Naturally, Xiao Yan needed to get busy. However, Xiao Yan was still unable to meet the demand even after refining for two days, all day and all night. Xiao Yan could only laugh bitterly and shake his hand. After which, he revealed to Xun Er and the rest a suggestion that had been brewing in him for a long while.

"We should go and rope in some alchemists."

Xiao Yan wore dark circles around his eyes as he helplessly spread his hands toward Xun Er and the two others in the hall. "I am unable to undertake such large scale refinement work by myself. Therefore, we must hire people."

"Hire people? In that case, won't we have to leak the medicinal formula to others?" Xun Er was somewhat startled when she initially heard Xiao Yan's suggestion. She mused for a moment before she finally asked softly.

"This is something that is unavoidable. I cannot remain locked up in the

house refining medicinal pills everyday, right?” Xiao Yan shook his head with a bitter smile as he spoke, “We cannot keep the medicinal formulas a secret forever. Moreover, all of you view the value of these three medicinal formulas too highly. If there is really the day when the secret is leaked, I will naturally take out an even more outstanding medicinal formula.”

These words were indeed true. The three types of medicinal formula were merely around that of the first or second tier. They could not be considered to be too valuable.

Xun Er and the two others hesitated for a moment when they heard this before nodding their heads. What Xiao Yan said was true. After all, he could not stay holed up in ‘Pan’s Gate’ refining pills everyday.

“I will hand the matter of looking for Alchemist to you. Remember, you must carry this out privately. You must clearly investigate every Alchemist who enters ‘Pan’s Gate’ on whether they have had any relationship with the ‘Medicine Gang’ in the past.” Xiao Yan reminded seriously.

“Xiao Yan ge-ge is worried that Han Xian would send someone to secretly sneak into ‘Pan’s Gate?’” Xun Er asked with a soft laugh.

“That fellow is not someone who is honest with everything. He would not rule out using such methods if it allowed him to obtain the medicinal formulas.” Xiao Yan said faintly.

“Alright. I know. Leave this matter to us.”

The efficiency in which Xun Er’s group did things caused Xiao Yan to be speechless. On the second day after he posed his suggestion, Xun Er had taken the lead to find three Alchemists who were around the third tier. From what Xun Er said, they were not recruited by the Alchemist Department for one reason or another. Therefore, they were not entangled with the ‘Medicine Gang’ within the Inner Academy. Instead, due to them sharing the same occupation, they were frequently bullied by the members of the ‘Medicine Gang.’ Once they heard that ‘Pan’s Gate’ had the intention of absorbing scattered Alchemists, they basically agreed without much hesitation.

If it were in the past, these Alchemists might not pay much attention to

a new faction like the 'Pan's Gate.' However, it was different now. Although 'Pan's Gate' did not have any elite Dou Lings, they had an Alchemist who could refine a tier five medicinal pill. This name was sufficient to attract quite a number of people. These Alchemists had come because of Xiao Yan's reputation as the top alchemist within the Inner Academy.

Xiao Yan did not have much doubt in Xun Er's ability to distinguish people. After he met with the three Alchemists and saw their faces filled with worship, he felt unable to laugh nor cry. However, he discovered that the three of them had quite a good medicine refining experience after a test. Therefore, Xiao Yan immediately agreed to accept the three people into 'Pan's Gate.'

Xiao Yan did not immediately hand the medicinal formula to them after accepting the three Alchemists. Instead, he quietly observed the conversation and conduct of the three people before calling all three of them to a secret room two days later. He then handed out three complete medicinal formulas for the three medicinal pills to the three people, and sternly instructed them not to leak them out.

The three Alchemists were shocked at Xiao Yan's generous act of imparting the medicinal formulas to them after merely three days. Only then did they bow to Xiao Yan with excited faces. There was no need to mention anything else. Just the trust of Xiao Yan alone was sufficient to cause these people, who had muddled along quite miserably due to the suppression of the 'Medicine Gang,' to feel a gratitude in their hearts.

Xiao Yan finally quietly sighed in relief within his heart after seeing the joy and gratitude on the faces of the three people after handing the medicinal formulas to them. At the very least, these three people could be trusted based on the looks of things now.

With three helpers, Xiao Yan became much more idle. During the short few days he stayed at 'Pan's Gate,' he would occasionally give pointers on refining medicinal pills to the three of them. He had finally escaped from the miserable life of refining day and night just a few days earlier.

Although the price of the medicine from 'Pan's Gate' was a little cheaper than that of the 'Medicine Gang,' it could not be bought everyday. Hence, after the first few days of fervent sales were over, the fiery situation where the medicinal pills that were on display being completely purchased within an hour rarely occurred again. However, the current situation of the sales was already enough to break the monopoly of the 'Medicine Gang' and contend with them.

Humans were ultimately a forgetful living creature. Hence, after one week, the high atmosphere caused by the medicinal pill competition had also began to become weaker. At this moment, Xiao Yan also sighed in relief. Now, there were much fewer hot-glowing needle-like gazes and people pointing at him when he went out.

Only at this moment did 'Pan's Gate' completely come on track. Xun Er and the others also began to take some time to enter the 'Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower' to train. The training effect that they obtained also caused Xiao Yan to feel somewhat surprised. According to this training speed, it was likely that Xun Er, Hu Jia, and Wu Hao would be able to breakthrough and enter the Dou Ling class within half a year. At that time, the strength of 'Pan's Gate' would take a great leap and soar!

Perhaps it was because Xiao Yan had been in retreat within the 'Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower' for a long period last time but he did not want to enter that underground tower with tightly shut air to train. Moreover, he also clearly understood that for him, who had just broken through a short while ago, the effects of entering the tower to train would not be very great.

During his free time, Xiao Yan accompanied Wu Hao to go to the Fighting Arena a couple of times. The extremely fiery hot combat atmosphere within basically caused every person who entered to possess an extremely passionate feeling. Everyone hoped that they could become the main actor in any place. In this Fighting Arena, as long as you entered the arena, you would become the most dazzling main character.

Xiao Yan's hand held a railing unmoving as he lazily eyed the extremely intense fight below. As powerful Dou Qi spread, sand flew and rocks were

thrown. Occasionally the attacks would land on the tough wall and rock fragments would splash all over the place.

Xiao Yan indifferently watched the elegant Agility Dou Techniques that the competitor in the arena displayed. His heart suddenly moved as his finger slowly rubbed the storage ring. Within it was a scroll that was sufficient to cause many people's eyes to redden. It was the Di class Agility Dou Skill: Three Thousand Lightning Movement!

"It appears... it should be about time to start practicing it." Xiao Yan muttered softly. His heart had suddenly become fiery hot.

"Looks like I need to enter the deep mountains alone..." Xiao Yan laughed softly. After which, he did not wait to greet Wu Hao, who was waiting to enter the arena. Instead, he walked out of the Fighting Arena. After having rested for nearly half a month, he should add a heavy bargaining chip to his own strength.

It was obviously not possible to practice the 'Three Thousand Lightning Movement' within the Inner Academy. Therefore, Xiao Yan intended to enter the vast deep mountains alone and stay there until he had successfully learned the 'Three Thousand Lightning Movement!'

# Chapter 505: Training, Three Thousand Lightning Movement

The lush green color extended to the edge of his vision within the vast deep mountains. It was like a borderless green-colored sea. When one stood within and the wild wind blows, the sea of trees would sway, and a green-colored wave that was over a thousand feet long would come sweeping over from afar. The sight was so spectacular that one would be left speechless.

A rushing wind sound suddenly sounded above the sea of trees. Immediately, a figure rushed over from the distance. Finally, his pair of wings flapped slightly, and his body was suspended in mid-air. He eyed the boundless sea of trees below and laughed bitterly. It was really unexpected that the forest outside the Inner Academy was actually this vast. Moreover, speaking from a certain point of view, the Magical Beast Mountain Range that spread horizontally over the Jia Ma Empire could not compare with it.

Xiao Yan sighed. He felt a little helpless as he recalled the harsh training environment that Yao Lao had mentioned. Where was he going to find a swampy area within these vast mountains?

Xiao Yan's gaze searched all around him. He heard some low and deep Magical Beast roars and hisses deep in the forest. Finally, he gently flapped the Purple Cloud Wings on his back as his body once again turned into a black shadow that shuttled past the unbroken mountain range.

In order to search for the training ground that Yao Lao requested, Xiao Yan wasted an entire day roaming all over the mountain ranges. However, it was fortunate that his luck was not so bad to the point that it left one speechless. Around noon on the second day, the training area he was looking for finally appeared in front of him while he was shuttling through the forest.

It was a spot caught between two mountains. Perhaps it was because the mountain streams converged down the middle, but this area was

exceptionally wet. Moreover, the further one ventured into it, the wetter the mud under one's feet became. This was especially apparent when he entered the middle area. This place had nearly been completely transformed into a swampland that was covered by green grass.

Xiao Yan's body borrowed the suspension from the Purple Cloud Wings to remain above this swampland. He randomly threw a stone into it, and eyed it as it broke through the grass and spluttered the mud water. Some joy surfaced on his face. The size of this swampland also met what Yao Lao had requested.

The dark-black ancient ring on his finger fluctuated slightly as Yao Lao's illusionary spirit floated out. His gaze swept over the swampland that was hidden under the green grass and a satisfied look appeared on his face. He smiled and said, "Not bad. This place could not be a more suitable to practice the 'Three Thousand Lightning Movement.'"

"There appears to be some Magical Beast hiding within the swamp?" The occasional green grass that sunk into the swamp did not escape Xiao Yan's notice. He immediately frowned and spoke about the matter.

"They are just some small fellows. They are no problem. You also require them to practice your Agility Dou Technique." Yao Lao laughed softly. His body gently landed on a large tree by the side before speaking to Xiao Yan, "Try and see if you can shuttle past this swamp without being blocked by them."

Xiao Yan hesitated for a moment when he heard this before nodding slightly. His body descended slowly and his shoulders trembled a little just as he was about to land in the swamp. The Purple Cloud Wings on his back withdrew. Having lost the suspension of the Purple Cloud Wings, his body fell into the swamp.

The instant that his feet made contact with the muddy water of the swamp, a ferocious charging force erupted from his feet. A clear energy explosion resounded unceasingly above this swamp.

"Puff."

A large cluster of black mud exploded under his feet. However, Xiao

Yan's body did not charge forward like it did in the past. Instead, Xiao Yan's body sunk due to a black mud swirl appearing under his feet.

Xiao Yan's feet were wrapped with black mud, and his expression changed slightly. There was quite a strong suction force within the black mud that pulled his body into the deep regions of the swamp with all its strength.

Xiao Yan lifted his hands vertically. He immediately patted them down on virtual space. A powerful invisible force swarmed out, and one could see that two sunken holes appeared on the surface of the swamp. Xiao Yan borrowed the force from the 'Fire Palm' to pull his legs out of the swamp. His back shook and the Purple Cloud Wings appeared in a lightning-like manner. After which, he hurriedly flapped them and maneuvered his body in such a way, it became suspended in mid-air.

The instant Xiao Yan's feet left the swamp, the surrounding area suddenly churned violently. Numerous dark black water arrows viciously shot out from the swamp. The target of those water arrows was Xiao Yan, who was in mid-air.

The sudden attack caused Xiao Yan's heart to be extremely surprised. However, it was fortunate that he was not totally without preparation. His hands once again violently pushed down. A shapeless wind collided with the water arrows in mid-air. It immediately shook the place until black water spread over the sky.

Xiao Yan's flapped his wings swiftly. His body was lifted over ten meters from the swamp before it slowly stopped. His eyes observed the swamp only to see that there were quite a number of serpent-shaped creatures swimming within the swamp. Among them, a black serpent had coincidentally extended its savage head out from the swamp at this time and a foul smelling black muddy water arrow was shot out aimlessly...

"Hee hee, how is it?" Yao Lao involuntarily teased when he saw Xiao Yan. One of the latter's legs had already been stained with black mud.

"Explosive Step is not suitable for this kind of terrain..." Xiao Yan smiled bitterly and shook his head. In this kind of terrain, the 'Explosive Steps'



was clearly firmly restrained. Not only did it not achieve its usual effect, it actually hindered him to the point where he fell into the ground, because of how soft the swamp terrain was.

“This so-called ‘Explosive Steps’ of yours cannot be considered a brilliant Agility Dou Techniques. It merely borrows the push force that is formed from the explosion on the ground to increase your speed.” Yao Lao smiled and spoke indifferently, “If you successfully learn the ‘Three Thousand Lightning Movement,’ this swamp would basically be like flat ground to you. If you practice it until you reach its pinnacle, the technique could even allow you to perform short distance flying and mid-air suspension by just relying on this Agility Technique.”

“Back then, the head of the Wind Lightning Pavilion had once relied on this ‘Three Thousand Lightning Movement’ to successfully escape from the combined attack of three elite Dou Zongs. Moreover, he had relied on the brilliance of this Agility Technique to counter attack and seriously injure one of the elite Dou Zongs while fleeing. From this, one can see the strength of this Agility Dou Technique. Although it is merely at the Di class Low level due to some reason, if one were to discuss its speed, it would be able to contend with that of a Di class Middle level Agility Dou Technique.”

“If you really master this thing, you would be able to run away in one piece, even if it was a strong Dou Wang chasing you...”

Xiao Yan’s heart became much hotter when he heard this. If he managed to successfully learn this ‘Three Thousand Lightning Movement,’ it would undoubtedly increase his chances of success when he snatches the ‘Fallen Heart Flame’ in the future.

Xiao Yan’s finger gently flicked his storage ring. Immediately, a silver-colored scroll appeared in Xiao Yan’s hand out of nowhere. His palm gently rubbed the body of the scroll. The scroll was a lightning-like color, and he appeared to be able to faintly hear some sounds of wind and lightning.

“Teacher, how can I successfully learn this ‘Three Thousand Lightning

Movement?” Xiao Yan’s gaze shifted toward Yao Lao as he anxiously asked.

“The ‘Three Thousand Lightning Movement’ is an Agility Dou Technique that would cause a countless number of people to covet it, even when it is placed in the entire Dou Qi continent. Back then, I once had the intention of borrowing this Dou Technique from the ‘Wind Lightning Pavilion’ to take a look. However, I was still turned away in the end.” Yao Lao smiled faintly and said, “This is one of the Safeguarded Pavilion Treasures of the ‘Wind Lightning Pavilion.’ The creation of each scroll consumes a great amount of effort. This is because there is a thread of wind-lightning strength that the Pavillion Head seals within it. Only by absorbing this thread of wind-lightning strength will one be able to truly learn this unique ‘Three Thousand Lightning Movement.’ Therefore, only some people of the Elder level or extremely outstanding disciples who had great contributions to the Pavilion would have the qualification to practice it.”

“Wind-lightning strength...” Xiao Yan softly muttered in his mouth before he continued with a gentle smile, “No wonder I can hear some wind-lightning sounds when I hold this scroll. It is actually due to this.”

“This wind-lightning strength is the most important factor for the ‘Wind Lightning Pavilion,’ allowing them to be able to endure on the Dou Qi Continent for a long time without declining. It is said that only if one sat on the peak of a mountain when the sky is completely covered in dark clouds with lightning flashing will one be able to barely absorb a thread of wind-lightning strength that is flowing through the empty space. However, this wind-lightning strength is extremely overbearing. If one’s mental strength is not strong, it is likely that it would be difficult to control. Moreover, there is the risk of a backlash if one is not careful. There have been an unknown number of outstanding disciples of the ‘Wind Lightning Pavilion’ whose spirits were torn into pieces at this step... However, once one is successful, the attacking strength of one’s Dou Qi ends up being something that even lightning affinity Dou Qi, which is known for its powerful attacking strength, cannot compare with. On this point, it has

some similar effects, via different means, to the 'Flame Mantra' swallowing the 'Heavenly Flames,' enabling the strength of the Dou Qi to soar." Yao Lao smiled and explained, "Currently, your Dou Qi, which contains the 'Green Lotus Core Flame,' is undoubtedly much stronger than an ordinary fire affinity Dou Qi. You should have already sensed this, no?"

"Yes..." Xiao Yan nodded slightly. He secretly remembered the name 'Wind Lightning Pavilion' within his heart. After which, he waved the silver-colored scroll in his hand toward Yao Lao and once again spoke with a smile, "How should I train now?"

"Wait!" Yao Lao replied with a smile.

"Wait? Wait for what?" Xiao Yan asked in surprised.

Yao Lao raised his head to eye the somewhat dark sky. He smiled and said, "Wait for the wind to rise and the lightning to flash... After which, absorb the wind-lightning strength within the scroll. Only through this can you begin the initial step of practicing the 'Three Thousand Lightning Movement.' From the look of the color of the sky, it should be soon..."

Xiao Yan was a little surprised when he heard this. He immediately understood something. As he raised his head, he threw his gaze toward the dim, borderless sky and nodded slightly.

The weather changed in an unpredictable manner within the mountains, making it difficult for one to fathom it.

This wait did not last for very long. On the second night since Xiao Yan came to this mountain range, the sky, where the setting sun hung a moment ago, was suddenly covered by dark clouds that appeared from an unknown direction. The wild wind blew down from the dark clouds, causing the mountain forest to emit a 'hua hua' sound.

Dark dense clouds covered the sky. Low rolling thunder was slowly emitted. Under the face of the might of the Heavens and Earth, the entire mountain range descended into a panicked silence.

"Chi!"

Lightning shot from the dark clouds, and an eye-piercing glow brightened the mountains until it was like daytime.

.....

A black-robed young man was seated cross-legged on the peak of a mountain. He sat without moving like a rock regardless of how the wild wind blew. As the lightning fell, it flickered and revealed a delicate, handsome, calm face.

Xiao Yan raised his head slightly. He eyed the dark mass of clouds above his head only to smile slightly. With a rotation of his palm, a scroll with a color similar to that of lightning flashed and appeared. The ancient words on the scroll radiated a faint lightning-colored glow under the lightning.

“Three Thousand Lightning Movement!”

# Chapter 506: Wind-Lightning Strength

The thick, dark clouds piled layer upon layer and blanketed the entire sky. Occasionally, there would be flashes of lightning around ten feet long winding through the dark clouds, much like a giant silver-colored python. It would tear through the sky, and its eye-piercing intense glow would cover the entire mountain range under the brilliant might of the Heavens. Under this kind of extremely wild environment, even the indigenous Magical Beasts of the deep mountains did not dare to carelessly appear. All of them shrunk within their caves. There were some faint low roars that followed this wind as it spread throughout the mountain range.

A small tree was uprooted, without reason, not far from Xiao Yan's body. After which, it was heavily thrown down the mountain peak. There was not the slightest sound being transmitted from below even after a long while.

Xiao Yan sat cross-legged on a green rock. His hands were tightly holding the silver-colored scroll. Under this kind of terrible weather where lightning occurred simultaneously, this scroll, which usually appeared old and ordinary, gradually emitted a faint warmth. Occasionally, Xiao Yan would even be able to see threads of extremely small silver-colored lightning flickering from within when his gaze glanced over it.

Xiao Yan lifted his head. He eyed the sky covered by dark clouds and lightning. He exhaled a long breath of air as he supported his right hand on his thigh. He could sense the slight tremble of his hand. In this kind of weather and environment where extremely frightening lightning could come smashing down at any moment, his heart was clearly not as calm as what he displayed on the surface.

"Teacher, when should I begin?" Xiao Yan held the silver-colored scroll in his hand. At this moment, the four ancient words, 'Three Thousand Lightning Movement,' on the scroll appeared to want to leap out of it, repeatedly releasing a faint silver crackle.

"You can begin. Be careful. This wind-lightning strength is not as

terrifying as that of the 'Heavenly Flame,' but it is also extremely overbearing. If you are not cautious, your life might be in danger." Yao Lao's serious voice sounded within Xiao Yan's heart.

"Yes." Xiao Yan nodded slightly. In his heart, he clearly knew that if he wanted to obtain strength, it would naturally be impossible for everything to be smooth. Although he had obtained the 'Flame Mantra,' a kind of mysterious Qi Method that could swallow a 'Heavenly Flame' after meeting Yao Lao back then, he would need to use his life to gamble time and time again during the evolution of the Qi Method. Therefore, these dangers no longer scared him.

He believed that since that frightening 'Green Lotus Core Flame' did not burn him to death, this current wind-lightning was insufficient to cause Xiao Yan to withdraw midway even though it was extremely overbearing.

"Open the scroll and place it on your legs. During this time, the force of the wind-lightning is the strongest. You need not direct it. The thread of wind-lightning hidden within the scroll will automatically surge out. At that time, you will grab it when it flashes out. After which, all you need to do is absorb it into your body and refine it." Yao Lao spoke of all the refining steps in one go.

Xiao Yan repeated it once in his heart. After realizing that nothing was lacking, he finally nodded heavily. Both his hands held the scroll and pulled open the surface of the scroll, where a special medicinal water with some sealing properties had been pasted on it in a sudden manner.

As the scroll was opened, an eye-piercing strong silver glow shot out explosively and abruptly. Immediately, it turned into a large rough silver-colored lightning energy pillar that shot into the thick dark layer of clouds. The powerful light pillar made it such that one could still clearly see the area over fifty kilometers away.

The strange action that suddenly erupted from the scroll caused Xiao Yan to be greatly shocked. His expression also paled. However, it was fortunate that the lightning pillar did not last for long before it swiftly shrank back from the dark clouds with a 'chi' sound. Finally, it once again

returned completely into the scroll.

Seeing that the scroll had returned to normal, Xiao Yan finally quietly sighed in relief. He rubbed some cold perspiration on his forehead. This place was not too far from the 'Black-Corner Region.' If he was to alarm someone, it was likely that some unexpected and undesirable situation would occur again. Xiao Yan clearly understood the degree of greediness of those fellows within the 'Black-Corner Region.' Of course, the thing which caused Xiao Yan's inner heart to feel somewhat guilty was that this scroll of Agility Dou Skill had a shady origin. After having done the act of blocking the path and snatching the treasure in the 'Black-Corner Region,' Xiao Yan clearly knew that he and the 'Blood Sect' had already quietly reached a point beyond reconciliation.

Xiao Yan did not believe that the father would easily let him off after he had killed his son. Currently, that leader of the 'Blood Sect' was still unaware that he was the secret murderer. Otherwise, it was likely that the fellow would forcefully ferret him out and kill him, even if he was a student within the Jia Nan Academy.

Xiao Yan withdrew his thoughts as his gaze turned to the scroll that was placed in front of him, only to be slightly startled. Perhaps it was due to that unusual acton earlier, but the silver-colored scroll was currently already wrapped in a faint silver-colored glow. The surface of the glow had a vague, strange shape materializing. However, if one were to carefully look at it, one would have no clue as to what it was.

When he recalled Yao Lao's instructions earlier within his heart, Xiao Yan inhaled a deep breath of air, and began to sink his mind within his body and calm his heart. His Spiritual Strength broke from his body and firmly covered this green rock. Even a sand particle falling within this region would not be able to escape Xiao Yan's Spiritual Perception.

Not long after Xiao Yan entered a focused condition, the silver-colored glow on the scroll became increasingly stronger with the flashing lightning in the sky. In the end, the scroll actually slowly floated, reaching Xiao Yan's chest level before it came to a stop.

As the silver-colored glow became increasingly intense, the picture that was vaguely visible on the surface also became increasingly clear. When one looked at it in this state, it was actually like numerous human figures in various kinds of running form. Although the stances were different, their legs were all covered by silver-colored, lightning-like, tiny, electric pythons. The glow moved slightly, causing the human figure to appear like it was alive. With a slight fluctuation of the air, the numerous energy human figures broke through the restraints of the glow and rushed directly toward the distant sky.

The speed of the illusionary human figures was so fast that it was frightening. It was as though it totally ignored the distance in space. In a mere instant, these human figures charged out from within the area covered by Xiao Yan's Spiritual Perception.

Although Xiao Yan had long since entered a focused condition and had sensed those energy human figures the instant that they rushed out from the glow, him having the ability to stop it was altogether another matter from having sensed it. The moment the Dou Qi in Xiao Yan's body spurt out from his palm, those energy human figures had already rushed out of his attacking radius. Xiao Yan's face was immediately filled with some shock.

"Coagulate!"

Just as Xiao Yan was feeling shocked and upset, Yao Lao's familiar voice suddenly sounded. There was a powerful Spiritual Strength contained within this old voice. Moreover, the wind would even come to a sudden stop in all the regions where the voice passed.

The wild wind became still. Those energy human figures which were about to charge into the sky also became still. In an instant, these energy human figures were stagnant in mid-air while forming various different kinds of strange posture.

"Return!" Yao Lao's low and deep voice sounded once again. The powerful Spiritual Strength which basically completely covered this entire mountain peak rushed back ferociously. Following the shrinking back of



the Spiritual Strength, those human figures appeared to have received an extremely powerful pulling force as they were thrown and sent flying until all of them were poured into Xiao Yan's head.

Xiao Yan's heart was still shocked at that overly frightening Spiritual Strength of Yao Lao when his wide awake mind shook. Immediately, a giddiness surged. He could see some of the extremely strange human figures flashing images in a vague manner. However, he did not remember much of them in his dazed state.

His drowsiness merely lasted for a while before the human figure images that surfaced in his mind also gradually disappeared.

Xiao Yan gradually woke up from his drowsiness. Lightning was still flashing in the sky. The dark-black, dense clouds appeared to be suppressing one's heart, causing one to have some difficulty breathing.

"Teacher's Spiritual Strength is really powerful. If we were to just discuss about Spiritual Strength, it was likely that there aren't many people on this Dou Qi continent who could compare with him. No wonder he was able to contend with an elite Dou Zong with just this Spiritual Strength." Xiao Yan once again recalled the Spiritual Strength, which had basically caused space to become stagnant earlier, and an astonishment involuntarily flashed across his mind.

"Stop having random thoughts. The wind-lightning has already moved along with those images and entered your body. Hurry up and refine them!" Yao Lao's low cry suddenly sounded in Xiao Yan's heart.

Yao Lao's cry had just sounded when Xiao Yan's body suddenly became still. His face was flushed purple-red. A thread of tiny lightning that had been shrunk countless times actually flashed across his eyes.

Xiao Yan's hands swiftly formed the training seal. He was so proficient at forming it that it was ingrained in his bones. His mind entered his body in a lightning-like manner. Following the entrance of his mind into his body, the Dou Crystal within the vortex in his body also swiftly trembled. A powerful green-colored Dou Qi erupted out. A turbulent flow that was like a flood water flowed into his numerous Qi Paths. Finally it turned into

a capsule-like form that surrounded a thread of silver-colored obscure energy at an intersection of veins.

Since Yao Lao had reminded him in time, the various wind-lightning strengths that were secretly hiding within his body were surrounded by Xiao Yan before they could form any powerful destructive force. Xiao Yan could not help but feel fortunate when he saw the increasingly stronger fluctuations that were spread out from the areas where those threads of silver-colored energy lingered.

“Hiss, hiss!”

The obscure silver-colored energy repeatedly twisted and let out a strange unceasing hissing sound, much like an entrenched enormous python.

Under the strange sound emitted by the silver-colored energy, Xiao Yan was somewhat surprised to discover that the Dou Qi that surrounded the former had actually begun to tremble faintly. That manner seemed to have some fear. At one glance, it was like a large group of sheep surrounding an incomparably vicious, enormous python, fearing that the other party would retaliate and cause its death at all times.

Those threads of obscure silver-colored energy also appeared to have sensed the trembling of the surrounding Dou Qi. In an instant, they suddenly surged. Wherever the powerful silver glow passed by, the green-colored Dou Qi would hurriedly shrink back. Upon seeing this dodging action of the Dou Qi, the hissing sound within the silver glow also became increasingly intense. It was as though the silver glow was laughing arrogantly. This kind of human-like reaction caused Xiao Yan to be greatly shocked.

However, on top of being shocked, Xiao Yan also had a faint cold smile. A thread of wind-lightning was actually this arrogant?

“Hmph!”

A low snort sounded within his body. Following this snort, the Dou Qi that surrounded the silver-colored energy suddenly fluctuated intensely. Immediately, the Dou Qi became slightly distorted and wisps of green-

colored flame quietly spread out from within it.

Following the appearance of the green-colored flame, the silver-colored energy appeared to have received a shock. Its bright glow swiftly shrank back.

Faced with the withdrawal of the silver-colored energy, the green fire Dou Qi appeared to have turned from a sheep into a ferocious and hungry wolf in this instant. It closed in hard, one step at a time, preparing to eagerly leap powerfully forward at any time!

# Chapter 507: Successful Refinement

Following the appearance of the green fire, the green-colored Dou Qi instantly turned from a gentle sheep into a ferocious hungry wolf. It immediately began to form a capsule-like shape as it surrounded the threads of vague silver-colored energy that were lingering in the middle.

“Hiss hiss!”

Faced with the swarming green fire Dou Qi, the silver-colored energy was somewhat unresigned as it once again erupted with a powerful glow. It was like a hedgehog which had sensed danger, erecting the spikes on its body with the intention of frightening away the enemy.

However, after the green-colored fire mixed with the current Dou Qi, the certain coercion contained within the silver-colored energy no longer posed the slightest pressure on the former. Instead, when the silver-colored intense glow soared, the green-colored flame within the Dou Qi appeared to have been provoked as it swarmed out with a chi sound.

The first brush of the two kinds of energy caused an energy ripple to be swiftly emitted. However, there was Dou Qi blocking all around it, which prevented it from causing much damage to the interior of the body.

The green fire and silver-colored energy intertwined with one another. In merely a short while, the strong silver-colored glow began to show signs of defeat as the glow repeatedly shrank back...

In less than a minute, the silver-colored energy ended up in complete defeat in its fight with the green fire. Under Xiao Yan's control, the green fire chased after the silver-colored glow after it won before surrounding it and shrinking it into a small ball that was only around the size of two hands. The essence wind-lightning strength appeared within the ball!

At this moment, this thread of wind-lightning strength had its strong outer glow incinerated by the green fire. When it lost the cover of the silver-colored glow, its actual body appeared clearly under the focus of Xiao Yan's mind.

It was a thread of extremely tiny, silver-colored lightning. Perhaps it could be said that it was a silver-colored lightning with a shape that was only slightly different from a small snake... this thread of lightning was merely around half an inch long and was extremely tiny. If one were to take a rough glance over it, it was likely that this thread was not even as thick as Xiao Yan's finger. Having lost the protection of the surrounding energy, this thread of silver-colored lightning carefully lingered in the body, twisting itself into a tiny lightning snake. When the snake widened its mouth, there was actually a vague wind-lightning sound that was emitted.

"This is the wind-lightning strength huh... it is indeed different than ordinary energy. Although it does not possess an intelligence, it could rely on a thread of instinct somewhere to do things." Xiao Yan's mind watched this lightning small snake which appeared to be surrounded by a group of hungry wolves as he spoke in a somewhat surprised manner within his heart.

"Ah. After all, it is a strength that is formed between the Heavens and Earth. A kind of energy that is formed from human cultivation like Dou Qi, would really have difficulty contending with this type of natural energy unless one already cultivated to an extremely deep degree." Yao Lao's laughter also sounded in Xiao Yan's heart.

"It is really unexpected that the 'Heavenly Flame' is actually this ferocious. Even the overbearing wind-lightning strength is a little afraid of it. With the suppression of the 'Green Lotus Core Flame,' it would not be too difficult for you to absorb it... Therefore, make the most of the time you have."

Xiao Yan nodded slightly. His mind slowly became focused. The green flame surrounding the silver-colored energy suddenly shook. Immediately, it pounced over in a turbulent manner. With one mouth, it swallowed the latter...

.....

Xiao Yan sat cross-legged on the peak of the mountain. His body would

occasionally have a thread of seemingly substance-like lightning flash over it. At this moment, there was much less lightning in the sky. However, bean-sized heavy rain came splattering down furiously under the cover of the dark-black night sky. In an instant, the entire mountain range was covered within this wild wind and violent storm.

Although it was raining extremely hard in the outside world, the area within a three-foot-radius around Xiao Yan's body was as dry as summer. All the rain would be vaporized into fog by the high temperature that shrouded nearby. This fog would immediately rise before being directly shattered by the raindrops falling down.

Xiao Yan's face was tense as his hands, which had formed the training seal, trembled slightly. Occasionally, there would be a thread of lightning that would shoot from his finger before quickly disappearing.

Time swiftly flowed by in his training state. The dark-black, dense clouds had become much fainter unknowingly. The violent storm raged for a night before it gradually appeared to tire. It would take long breaks before there a wave of scattering rain droplets came down. It no longer had the momentum that it did earlier.

Dark clouds slowly swam in the deep, black sky. Suddenly, a thread of light passed through the dark clouds, and shot toward the endless sea of trees. Following the appearance of the first thread of light, thread after thread of light began to scatter down swiftly not long after that, appearing as though the first thread of light had started a chain reaction. The threads shot through the dark clouds until they were filled with holes. Finally, the clouds could not bare it any longer as the threads completely tore the clouds open. In an instant, a warm eye-piercing light scattered down, covering this forest, which had endured the destruction of a night of bad weather.

Warm sunlight shone onto the black-robed young man, who was seated cross-legged on the mountain peak. Seemingly having sensed the change in the weather of the outside world, the young man's tightly shut eyes moved slightly. A thread of silver-colored lightning lingered on his finger before quietly entering his body and finally disappearing.

Following the disappearance of the silver-colored lightning, the shaking of the black-robed young man's eyelashes became increasingly intense. A moment later, they finally appeared to have escaped from a restraint as they opened abruptly. Immediately, a substance-like silver-colored lightning carried some overbearing sharpness as it shot out from his eyes and reached a total distance of over ten feet!

The silver-colored lightning merely lasted for an instant before it suddenly disappeared. Following the disappearance of the silver-colored lightning, that pair of dark-black eyes once again descended into a calmness.

The seal that Xiao Yan's hands formed loosened as he raised his head slightly and eyed the warm sunlight that radiated from the sky. His chest rose and fell. Finally, muddled air moved along his throat before being spit out. Following the spitting out of this muddled air, Xiao Yan's face immediately had an additional faint radiance. Under the shine of sunlight, it appeared like jade, which greatly attracted the attention of others.

Xiao Yan's body quivered slightly and without . His body, which was seated cross-legged, stood up like a spring. He twisted his body and the cracking sound emitted from between his bones caused the smile, lifted on the corner of his mouth, to quietly expand a little.

Xiao Yan slowly extended his palm. His finger rubbed gently. Immediately, a thread of extremely faint silver-colored lightning that carried a slight hissing sound surfaced from his finger.

"Have I successfully refined it?" Xiao Yan eyed the tiny thread of lightning as joy involuntarily leaped from between his brows. This refinement of the wind-lightning strength was not as difficult or dangerous as he had imagined. Did those outstanding disciples from the 'Wind Lightning Pavilion' halt their progress at this step?

"Do you really think that everyone has the 'Heavenly Flame' to help suppress the wind-lightning strength?" Yao Lao snappy voice suddenly sounded within Xiao Yan's heart. The wind-lightning strength was extremely overbearing. How could an ordinary Dou Qi suppress it? If Xiao

Yan did not possess the 'Green Lotus Core Flame,' it was undoubtedly the ravings of an idiot if he wanted to refine the wind-lightning strength for his use in such an easy manner.

Xiao Yan smiled awkwardly when he heard Yao Lao's reprimand him. He dispersed the wisp of energy from the tip of his finger as he rubbed his head and said, "Teacher, since I have already refined the wind-lightning strength, I think that I should be able to practice the 'Three Thousand Lightning Movement,' right?"

"Naturally."

Joy once again surfaced on Xiao Yan's face when he heard this. He lowered his head to pick up the silver-colored scroll on the green rock only to be slightly startled. At this moment, the scroll had already become black. Forget about the pictures within it, even the four words 'Three Thousand Lightning Movement' on the surface of the scroll had disappeared.

"Where are the things?" Xiao Yan hurriedly asked as his expression changed slightly when he eyed the completely blank scroll.

"The things have already entered your head. How can it still remain on the scroll? Remain calm and recall those images from yesterday night. They are the key part of practicing the 'Three Thousand Lightning Movement.' Now that you have the wind-lightning strength, practicing it is just like water falling into the drain. As long as you practice hard and possess sufficient talent, you will be able to enter the complete mastery level sooner or later." Yao Lao helplessly explained.

Only after he was reminded by Yao Lao did Xiao Yan come to a sudden understanding. He let out a bitter laugh. It appeared that he had become much more stupid after training in the storm for an entire night.

Xiao Yan inhaled a deep breath of fresh morning air. He raised his eyes to look at the sea of greenery that made up this vast forest. After a wash from an entire night of heavy rain, this forest appeared to give people a feeling of being completely new. Xiao Yan's gaze slowly swept over it. His somewhat fluctuating heart also gradually become peaceful.



Following the peacefulness of his mind, Xiao Yan's eyes were once again gently shut. However this time around, darkness did not appear after he shut them. Instead, it was as though he had entered into a silver-colored region. In front of him, numerous, flashing, vivid human figures with strange postures swiftly surfaced. Although the flashing of the images were extremely fast, they would firmly imprint themselves in Xiao Yan's heart each time they did so. They no longer had the kind of trance-like feeling where he was thought that he would forget the moment he stopped looking at them..

Xiao Yan's gaze swept across these flashing human figure images and realized that threads of silver-colored glow were being emitted from under their legs. These glow were like an accelerator that was carrying these human figures in their flight.

“Turning one's body into lighting, using one's heart to drive it!”

After Xiao Yan firmly remembered the final image, the images in front of him suddenly aggregated swiftly together. It agglomerated into eight glowing and flashing ancient words.

Xiao Yan gaze focused firmly on the eight large silver words in front of him. It was a long while later before Xiao Yan appeared to have understood it. As his heart moved, the thread of wind-lightning strength that was refined began to seep out of his body. Finally, it formed into threads of lightning that wrapped around the surface of his body. As the light surfaced, it finally automatically began to surge down. In merely an instant, it agglomerated into a cluster of silver-colored glow that completely wrapped Xiao Yan's body.

Xiao Yan lowered his head and eyed the silver-colored glow that completely covered his legs. His right leg carried a threads of a strange arc as it was gently raised. Finally, it formed into a posture that was completely the same as that in an image earlier.

The posture was maintained for an instant before Xiao Yan's feet gently landed. Following the landing of his feet, he suddenly felt a giddiness in his mind. The silver-colored space was also suddenly shattered. When his

gaze once again roamed around him, he was somewhat astonished to discover that his body was currently in mid-air around the mountain peak. That gentle stride he took earlier actually caused him to charge from the mountain peak to the sky.

Xiao Yan lowered his head slightly. He eyed the bottomless deep abyss under the peak of the mountain and his face suddenly paled. He turned his head feeling somewhat shocked, but he did not see the Purple Cloud Wings extending from his back. In this empty space, the flashing silver-colored glow under his feet appeared to have insufficient energy. After trembling for a moment, it suddenly dissipated. His body also fell toward the deep abyss at this moment much like a bird whose wings were broken...

“Ah... save me!”

A miserable wail suddenly resounded during the cheerful morning, deep within the mountain.

# Chapter 508: Lightning Flash

A faint white-colored fog spread over the swamp that was covered by tiny, emerald-green grass blades. A gentle wind blew over and the white fog surged slightly. Finally, it followed the wind as it surged up toward the sky, causing the swamp to become much clearer.

“Chi!”

A slight ‘chi chi’ sound suddenly sounded within the calm swamp. Not long after the sound appeared, a black human figure suddenly flashed over, carrying a silver-colored, bright glow. Each time his footsteps landed on the swamp, the lightning that repeatedly stretched out and appeared would cause the mud within the swamp to begin to boil just like boiling water. That ‘chi chi’ sound was also emitted from the contact.

The speed of the black shadow was extremely frightening. As he ran, he directly gouged out a two foot wide gully within the swamp. It was a long while later before this long gully was restored to its original form by the creeping of the swamp. Behind the person, a large group of closely packed black-colored, poisonous snakes repeatedly broke through the water. They would widen their savage mouths and numerous stench-filled water arrows would create a sharp wind that shot viciously at the person’s back. However, it was obvious that the speed of these water arrows were far inferior to the quick movement of the human figure. Therefore, not a single arrow managed to hit the body of the human figure.

“Boom!”

The swiftly rushing human figure suddenly came to a stop. His feet twisted slightly and his body was inclined into a strange arc. After which, he shot explosively into the sky under a deep sound. His feet immediately shook, and he stayed in mid-air in this manner without relying on any objects!

Although the black figure could maintain his act of stopping in mid-air for less than ten seconds, an outsider would definitely be completely shocked if he or she were to see this. Staying in mid-air for a short while

without the help of Dou Qi Wings or some other object would require at least the strength of a Dou Huang. Only if one became an extremely strong Dou Zong would one possess the ability of staying in mid-air for a long time.

After the body of the black figure paused for a couple of seconds in mid-air, a silver glow flashed from under his feet. His body twisted and he appeared on a large tree over ten meters away from his original point with a 'suo' sound. If part of a vague black line was not still visible in the air, one would think that this speed had already broken through the resistance of the air and reached the frightening stage of teleporting.

"Ha ha, good. It is worthy of being a Di class Agility Dou Technique. This speed is indeed smooth and fast!" A surprised laugh sounded as the feet of the black figure landed steadily on a tree branch.

"This 'Three Thousand Lightning Movement' is divided into three levels. Lightning Flash, Instant Lightning, and Three Thousand Lightning... When one practices until the final level, the realm of the 'Three Thousand Lightning,' one will be completely silent while one crosses a certain space. It is basically no different than teleporting. That kind of speed is something that even an elite Dou Zong would not dare to underestimate. Just look at you now. You are no different than a lustful bull plowing the field as he rushes over. Forget about Three Thousand Lightning, it is likely that you have not even truly entered the first level of Lightning Flash." Yao Lao's figure slowly drifted on a tree branch as he faintly spoke while glancing at Xiao Yan, who had an excitement-filled face.

Xiao Yan could not help but roll his eyes when his enthusiasm was dampened by Yao Lao in this manner. He himself felt that it was quite good. The speed earlier was something that the 'Explosive Steps' would not be able to reach even if it was displayed at its peak. After having only practiced the 'Three Thousand Lightning Movement' for only three days and already having this success, was that not considered not bad?

"You should take a look under your feet..." Yao Lao involuntarily shook his head when he saw Xiao Yan's manner as he helplessly chided.

Xiao Yan lowered his head when he heard this. The corner of his mouth immediately twitched. He could see that his feet were actually already covered with mud. The mud was sticky and thick with some grass stuck to it.

“The ‘Three Thousand Lightning Movement’ is as quiet as rock and moves as swift as lightning. It does not request for beauty and only desires surprise, borrowing it to hurt the enemy.” Yao Lao said faintly, “However, look at the movement that you have created earlier. Your body is still over a hundred meters away, but the sound had already been transmitted over. It clearly does not match the purpose of practicing the ‘Three Thousand Lightning Movement.’

Xiao Yan rubbed his head and smiled awkwardly when he saw Yao Lao’s expression, which carried a faint sternness. He did not dare interrupt.

“Due to your Spiritual Strength being powerful, your control over the energy in your body is also extremely outstanding. Therefore, such a mistake, one only made by a beginner, is considered to be somewhat foolish to be made by you. Remember. Suppress the wind-lightning strength that is being emitted without any lapse in control, and let it gather at a single point. Using the explosive strength that is emitted, it will increase your speed quickly so much so that you would become the fastest person under the Dou Wang class. Moreover, if you are able to reach this stage, you would be considered to have truly stepped into the first level, Lightning Flash, of the ‘Three Thousand Lightning Movement.’” Yao Lao shook his head and said in a deep voice.

“Of course, the explanation that I have given with my mouth is indeed very simple. However, there are some things in between that will require you to grasp by yourself. I can only direct you to take the most effective path...” Yao Lao gradually relaxed his tone as he softly spoke.

“Ah.” Xiao Yan nodded his head slightly. His expression was serious as he cupped his hands toward Yao Lao. Immediately after, he took a step back and sat cross-legged on the tree branch. The ‘Three Thousand Lightning Movement’ may be able to cause his speed to soar greatly, but its consumption of Dou Qi also reached an amount that was quite

frightening. Xiao Yan had quietly gauged the consumption rate by himself. With his current strength of an eight star Da Dou Shi, it was likely that he could merely hold out for three to five minutes if he were to use the 'Three Thousand Lightning Movement' without rest. After which, he would have difficulty displaying it because of the exhaustion of his Dou Qi.

Seeing that Xiao Yan had closed his eyes to train and recover his Dou Qi, Yao Lao quietly heaved a sigh of relief within his heart. A faint smile also spilled out from the corner of his mouth. In merely three days, Xiao Yan was already able to barely display the 'Three Thousand Lightning Movement'. Although he had merely mustered the wind-lightning strength in an extremely crude manner, the speed which he had displayed could already catch up to the 'Explosive Steps,' when the latter was used at its maximum potential. This kind of training progress was already at a very gratifying speed. However, in order to not let an arrogance surface within Xiao Yan's heart because he had just obtained this kind of rare treasure, Yao Lao could only be a black-faced individual for a while in order to allow Xiao Yan to calm his heart and train...

Of course, the effect of this action of Yao Lao was indeed not bad. After Xiao Yan had finished recovering his Dou Qi, the wind-lightning strength that had brewed on his feet when he once again practiced the 'Three Thousand Lightning Movement' was clearly much more restrained compared to before. Moreover, the damage he created when he rushed over the swamp had also gradually become smaller.

The black shadow flashed up and down the vast swamp. The silver-colored lightning was like a lightning snake that repeatedly shuttled swiftly through his feet.

Following this tough training of Xiao Yan's and the flow of time, the rushing 'chi chi' sound that was emitted from the swamp also became increasingly weaker. The sound may have weakened, but the speed of the black shadow above the swamp became increasingly frightful. In the end, one couldn't even see a black line shuttling passed. If it were not for the countless number of black snakes swimming within the swamp, it would really be difficult to determine Xiao Yan's exact position.

Under the gradual flow of time, the 'Three Thousand Lightning Movement' that the black-robed, young man practiced had clearly advanced from being unsmooth to having truly entered into basic mastery. When the day he successfully masters it comes, he would be just like the lightning from far in the sky, exploding out of nowhere and shocking the continent.

Nearly one month hurriedly passed by. Time did not leave any trace in that swamp. However, from the looks of the black-robed, young man, who had his hands held behind him as his feet walked over the swamp as though it were flat land, it was easy to tell that there had indeed been something left behind during this one month.

Xiao Yan's hands were held behind his back as his feet stepped on the swamp that was filled with strange suction force. However, he appeared to be stepping on firm flat ground and did not show any traces of sinking. This strange scene caused people to feel surprised. If one were to examine carefully, one would realize that on his feet there were actually two clusters of silver-colored light the size of a palm. The clusters of light flickered and numerous hand-like lightning glows repeatedly extended out. They would occasionally enter the mud, causing the mud at that spot to seeth.

The swamp moved slightly. A few black-colored poisonous snakes with bodies that were entirely dark-black quietly moved and concealed themselves under where Xiao Yan stood. However, just as they were about to reach their destination, with savage mouths open, the silver glow under Xiao Yan's feet shook slightly. A few silver-colored threads of lighting exploded out, and inserted themselves into the swamp, easily piercing through the heads of these few poisonous snakes.

Xiao Yan glanced at the snake corpse that surfaced from the swamp. The corner of his mouth curled slightly as he raised his feet slowly. He hesitated for a moment before he inhaled a deep breath of air and heavily stomped his feet down.

Following the stomping down of Xiao Yan's foot, he could see that the silver-colored cluster of light under his feet suddenly shrank explosively to

less than half its size. It was merely maintained for less than a second before the shrunken silver-colored light clusters suddenly surged forth as Xiao Yan's right leg was placed down. Immediately, a low and deep wind-lightning sound spread out, shaking the area a couple of meters around until it fluctuated slightly.

“Chi!”

The silver light flickered as Xiao Yan's foot fell. An illusionary feeling suddenly and strangely appeared on his body. At this moment, a sharp-eyed person would be able to see that the instant Xiao Yan's body became illusionary, a black-colored light flashed past the space...

Around twenty meters away, the swamp was suddenly depressed, forming two small swirls. The black human figure appeared like a ghost as he quietly surfaced.

The first thing that Xiao Yan did after his body appeared was to hurriedly turn around. His gaze saw that there was an extremely faint black-colored illusionary shadow twenty meters behind him. When looked upon carefully, it was actually an afterimage!

“Have I succeeded?”

A joy involuntarily appeared on Xiao Yan's pale-white face as he eyed that extremely faint black-colored shadow. In over fifty days of training where he forgot to sleep, he had eaten an unknown amount of black mud and his body had been bitten by poisonous snakes an unknown amount of time. However, the shocking toughness of the young man did not allow him to withdraw even a little. Now... it was finally the time for him to reap the reward.

Yao Lao's illusionary body was suspended in mid-air. He lowered his head to eye the black-robed young man whose face was filled with wild joy. His indifferent face involuntarily revealed a small smile. In over fifty days, Xiao Yan had managed to achieve the realm of the first level of the ‘Three Thousand Lightning Movement,’ Lightning Flash. This speed was something that would place him among one of the best even within the ‘Wind Lightning Pavilion.’ However, only his heart clearly knew just what



kind of tough training this stubborn little fellow had to undergo...

Possessing talent, possessing toughness, and possessing a willingness to work hard, Yao Lao could not think of any paths other than success for Xiao Yan, who possessed these three qualities.

# Chapter 509: Comprehension, Ruler Technique

A black-robed, young man sat cross-legged on a mountain peak. His hands formed training seals and his breathing was calm and long. Moreover, there would be a slight fluctuation in his surroundings each time he inhaled and exhaled. Threads of energy that leaned toward a fiery hot form seeped out. Finally, they moved along his breathing and entered the interior of his body.

The silent training continued for nearly two hours. The clothes on the black-robed, young man, which were flapping in the absence of wind finally slowly fell down, and his eyes opened with a slight tremble.

“I have gained quite a lot from training deep within the mountains for two months...” Xiao Yan twisted his neck. He sensed the bubbling spring water like Dou Qi that was flowing unceasingly, and a smile involuntarily spilled from the corner of his mouth as he softly spoke.

During the two months of tough training, Xiao Yan had not only trained his ‘Three Thousand Lightning Movement’ until he reached the level of the first stage, ‘Lightning Flash,’ but the Dou Qi in his body had also increased, combined, and purified deep within the mountains where he ate in the wind and slept outdoors. According to his guess, the current him had already unknowingly reached the peak of the eight star Da Dou Shi class while practicing the ‘Three Thousand Lightning Movement.’ Of course, he took two months in order to enable himself to reach the peak of the eight star Da Dou Shi class. This kind of speed was something that could not be in the same category as training within the ‘Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower.’ However, Xiao Yan already felt quite satisfied with regards to this. Being able to practice the ‘Three Thousand Lightning Movement’ until he reached the first stage had already exceeded his expectations. On top of achieving this aim, he was also able to advance his Dou Qi. This could be considered an additional thing to rejoice. Hence, he did not feel depressed.

Xiao Yan stood up from the green rock. He held his hands behind him as his gaze wandered over the vast sea of trees. A gentle breeze coincidentally blew through the trees at this moment. Immediately, the sea of trees swayed and an enormous tree wave that was nearly a thousand feet long undulated from afar. One wave followed another in an unceasing manner. It was nearly no different than the waves of the ocean. It caused people to sigh at the might of nature, which was vast and majestic...

Xiao Yan was startled as he eyed the monstrous tree wave as he stood on the mountain peak. Perhaps it was because of the calm atmosphere between the heavens and the earth at this moment, but somewhere within his heart was quietly stirred a little. Xiao Yan's current thoughts were fast and sensitive, and they toughened immediately as a strange feeling flashed past him in a lightning-like manner.

Xiao Yan's hands started to stretch behind him. His eyes, however, slowly narrowed. A long while later, his back shook and Purple Cloud Wings shot out. As his wings flapped, his body drew an arc across the sky before his feet steadily landed on the vast borderless sea of trees.

The Purple Cloud Wings shrank and returned within. Xiao Yan stood alone within the sea of trees. He overlooked the trees and was greeted with an emerald-green world. His body was an inky-black dot within the emerald-green. He appeared very small but he stood out.

Xiao Yan's hands slowly parted. The wave of trees whizzed from afar before finally carrying a loud 'hua hua' sound, like a thunderbolt in transit, as it swept past Xiao Yan.

Xiao Yan's feet were like eagle claws as they firmly grabbed the top of the tree. His body was like a leaf drifting with the wind within this nearly endless rattling tree wave. It swiftly drifted but was ultimately never torn into pieces by the powerful strength generated by the tree waves.

The thousand foot wave of trees swarmed over, continuing for over ten minutes before it gradually became distant.

The wave of trees swept past, leaving behind a black-robed young man

who had a pale face. However, his eyes contained an extremely great excitement. He turned around and eyed the monstrous tree wave that had become distant and was swiftly disappearing from the edge of his sight. A certain part of his heart was violently stirred.

“This kind of artistic conception...”

Xiao Yan slowly raised his right hand. An enormous dark black ruler flashed and appeared. He held it tightly in his hand and muttered, “If I can get my attack to be like the waves that appeared one after another in an endless manner, it would definitely be a kind of exquisite attacking method, no?”

Xiao Yan’s hand held the Heavy Xuan Ruler as he tilted his head slightly. His dark-black eyes were filled with a strange loss and deep thoughts. His body also appeared to be completely stilled at this moment. If there was a sharp-eyed person, he or she would be able to faintly discover that Xiao Yan’s right hand, which held the Heavy Xuan Ruler, appeared to be trembling with a very small arc. That manner was as though it was adjusting something...

The stiffening of Xiao Yan lasted nearly an entire hour. He himself, however, appeared to be totally unconscious of this. The earlier aura that suddenly appeared with the wave of trees was repeatedly replayed within the deep region of his mind. Time appeared to have stopped in this kind of strange condition. Xiao Yan also felt an increasingly large glow suddenly appear, and felt some intriguing trace that swarmed in between the wave of trees.

The tree wave swept past and disappeared before once again sweeping past and disappearing. It repeated in this manner, forming a cycle that did not rest for a long while.

The time in the outside world continued to flow by. Although over an hour had passed, Xiao Yan had already felt the instantaneous strange feeling from the countless number of simulated tree waves passing by within this one hour by borrowing that strange condition.

As he sensed this feeling in this manner a countless number of times, an

abrupt understanding began to unknowingly appear within Xiao Yan's dark-black pupils...

“Huh?”

As Xiao Yan was in this strange condition, an extremely surprised low sound quietly sounded from Yao Lao. This voice may have been soft but it still contained astonishment and shock. From the looks of it, this condition of Xiao Yan had exceeded his expectations.

Yao Lao's surprise 'huh' sound did not break this strange condition that Xiao Yan was in. The extremely experienced Yao Lao naturally knew what kind of opportunity this strange condition meant to people in training. If one were unfortunate enough to have this condition broken due to the outside world, it would undoubtedly cause that person to feel regret for the rest of one's life.

A powerful Spiritual Strength quietly spread out from the dark-black ancient ring on Xiao Yan's finger. It embraced all of the nearby space within a dozen of meters. Following this action of the Spiritual Strength, the low roar of a Magical Beast that would occasionally be transmitted over from afar completely disappeared. This region had descended into an absolute calm due to Yao Lao's Spiritual Strength. There would no longer be any event in the outside world that would force Xiao Yan out of this strange condition.

Time slowly flowed by. Nearly three full hours had already passed from the moment Xiao Yan entered the quiet condition. During these three hours, Xiao Yan's body appeared to have turned into a rock statue that did not move. If it were not for the arc of the shaking black ruler in his hand becoming a little larger, anyone would have thought that this was a black-colored rock statue that had lost any sign of life. However, this rock statue was a little too life-like.

The black-robed young man, whose body was completely stiffened, suddenly began to tremble gently in the sealed area of the calm sea of trees. Following the shaking of his body, the glow within his dark-black eyes and the deep thoughts also swiftly disappeared. A clear realization

came to light...

Xiao Yan's right hand held the ruler's hilt. His body was as straight as a spear. A sharp aura quietly spread out and Xiao Yan's face tightened. The black ruler in his hand was slowly lifted. After which, with an extremely slow motion, it was gently hacked, lifted, swung, and swept...

The foundation attacking method of a heavy ruler was completely displayed by Xiao Yan at this moment. As his hand shook, the speed at which the ruler was wielded also became increasingly faster. In the end, Xiao Yan's entire body was nearly completely wrapped within a black-colored ball. This kind of exquisite ruler skill was something that Xiao Yan did not possess in the past.

The whirring of the wild wind sounded from the sea of trees as a large black ball was swiftly rolling above it. The leaves would wither wherever this black ball passed. Occasionally, some would fall into the black ball and instantly be shattered into pieces.

The swinging of the heavy ruler became increasingly faster. However, at a certain instant just when Xiao Yan was about to achieve the highest speed, the heavy ruler suddenly became slow. This abrupt change was like butterflies in one's heart, causing one to feel extremely terrible.

A soft muffled groan was emitted from the human figure that was vaguely visible within the black ball. In an instant, one could see that the expression of the young man had become much paler.

Although Xiao Yan's expression was pale, he did not immediately stop. The abrupt spark repeatedly flashed within the deep region of his mind. In addition, as the heavy ruler in his hand waved, an extremely subtle change in the trajectory and angle was made without him knowing.

Xiao Yan's mind was tightly shut as he began to give up taking the initiative to wave the ruler. Instead, he gave the control to the abrupt light, located somewhere in his mind.

The sharp ruler wind gradually became slow. Replacing it was that extremely slow waving ruler's body... The speed of the heavy ruler was slow. From the point of view of an outsider, this ruler technique was

basically filled with openings. If one were to just randomly attack, one would be able to cause the person waving the ruler to be forced back after suffering serious injuries.

As the ruler danced, a strange glow once again swarmed into those dark black eyes. Xiao Yan's originally somewhat stiff waving speed had suddenly become much smoother. Following this change, the ruler technique, which was originally filled with openings, suddenly changed drastically. As the ruler was waved, the ruler's body was bounded everywhere from up until down. When it danced, it was actually like a ball that was so firm that it could not be broken. There was nowhere in which one could attack.

This ruler technique was undoubtedly vastly different from the earlier disorderly ruler technique of Xiao Yan, which only relied on his body's strength and speed to attack!

Ever since Xiao Yan had obtained the Heavy Xuan Ruler, he had never practiced any kind of complete ruler technique. When he fought with an enemy, he would mostly rely on his great strength. Although a strength can break a thousand techniques, this so-called strength must reach a certain powerful level in order to achieve this kind of overbearing effect. If he were to meet a person who had similar strength, how would he break through the latter? At that time, it would undoubtedly be determined by the exquisite techniques of both parties.

If one were to discuss the exquisiteness of one's technique, the ruler technique that Xiao Yan had used may be a little coarse compared to the lance technique that Bai Shan had used back then but in terms of speed and strength, Xiao Yan was stronger. However, this exquisiteness in techniques had been his weak point. If he were to meet an opponent with a strength that was similar to his in the future, he would definitely suffer some disadvantage. Moreover, this sudden realization appeared to completely remedy this weakness of his.

“Chi!”

The waving of the heavy ruler suddenly became sluggish. A sharp wind

shot out explosively from the tip of his ruler. He could hear a 'ka cha' sound and a large tree, over ten meters in front of him, had its top completely broken off.

Xiao Yan maintained the stance of the heavy ruler hacking down as the glow within his eyes swiftly withdrew. An instant later, a clear brightness surfaced. His face carried a thread of surprise as he eyed the heavy ruler in his hand. The trajectory and angle on how the heavy ruler was swung earlier actually lingered without being removed from his mind as though it was an imprint.

"This..."

Xiao Yan widened his mouth. He did not really know what to say. In merely a few hours of being in some stance, he had discovered that he had grasped an extremely exquisite ruler attacking technique. Although this ruler technique had merely entered its embryonic stage, its strength had already secretly shown that it was just the tip of an iceberg. If it was to be honed in the future, it was not difficult to imagine just what great help it would be for Xiao Yan!

"There is no need to be surprised. This is not an accidental gain during training but a kind of lucky opportunity. You are lucky to be able to meet it and even more fortunate to grasp hold of it." Yao Lao's voice slowly sounded within Xiao Yan's heart, "This kind of lucky opportunity is something that many people can meet, but are unable to grab hold of. Being able to grab it proves your ability and talent. Gaining things without effort is but a joke."

Xiao Yan nodded gently when he heard this. The stunned feeling in his heart slowly became fainter...

"This ruler technique had a thread of wave-like unceasing conception to it. I think that it has something to do with the tree waves earlier, no? It may currently be a little weak, but you need not be disheartened. This is only a start. As long as you properly hone it in the future, I think that you might be able to create a new ruler technique Dou Skill that belongs to you." Yao Lao laughed. His laughter contained some gratification. The



start of everything was difficult. Now that Xiao Yan had already started, it was likely that it was only a matter of time before he succeeded. Although creating a Dou Skill was very difficult, Yao Lao had unusual confidence in this little fellow where miracles frequently occurred.

Xiao Yan smiled and nodded. He flipped his hand and placed the heavy ruler onto his back. After which, he took out an 'Energy Recovery Pill' from his storage ring and stuffed it into his mouth. He sensed a thread of heat rise in his body, and was just about to search for a spot to rest when a deafening monster roar suddenly sounded from a distant mountain like a thunderclap.

"What a powerful roar. Just from hearing its voice, it should be a Magical Beast that is at least at the Dou Wang class, no?" Xiao Yan was similar shaken by the sudden roar until he was blank. He hurriedly raised his head and eyed the distant mountain as he asked in surprise.

"Yes. It is indeed a Dou Wang class Magical Beast. There are also some similarly quite strong auras in that region. Both parties should be fighting." Yao Lao said with a faint smile.

"There are actually people who dare to have some intentions toward a Dou Wang class monster?" Surprise flashed across Xiao Yan's face. His heart was somewhat curious as he smiled and suggested, "Shall we go and take a look?"

"Yes, up to you." Yao Lao was indifferent at this moment.

Xiao Yan smiled when he heard this. The Purple Cloud Wings on his back shot out. With a gentle flap, his body began to rise before finally flying toward the location where the monster roar came from.

# Chapter 510: Core Quenching Body Milk

After summoning out the Purple Cloud Wings, Xiao Yan rushed as fast as lightning toward the spot where the beast's roar was emitted from. In less than ten minutes, he was already near the place where the beast's roar resonated from. Moreover, he appeared to be able to sense a few powerful auras on top of hearing the roar. These auras were strong and were even around the same as Lin Yan. There were perhaps even one or two among them who were stronger than Lin Yan.

Surprise quietly rose in Xiao Yan's heart as he sensed these auras. That Lin Yan was a strong person who had entered the peak of the Dou Ling class. By being stronger than him, did that not mean... this place actually had elite Dou Wangs?

Xiao Yan became slightly cautious as these thoughts flashed in his heart. He carefully suppressed the fluctuation of Dou Qi within his body, and his breathing had also gradually slowed. The Purple Cloud Wings on his back flapped slightly, and his body quietly rushed into the lush green forest.

Xiao Yan swiftly withdrew the Purple Cloud Wings upon entering the forest. After which, his hands flashed in an agile manner just like a monkey. After being careful in this manner for a long while, the view in front of him suddenly broadened. This was especially so when Xiao Yan's gaze swept across a small mountain valley outside of the forest. The surprise on his face involuntarily became much denser.

Outside of the forest was a small mountain valley that was overlooked by a mountain. The entrance to the mountain valley was like a gourd. At this moment, there was a strongly built giant white-colored ape around thirty to forty feet in size standing at the entrance to this mountain valley. The entire body of the white ape was emitting an extremely sharp icy-cold aura. The heavy and coarse breaths emitting from its large nostrils came out as two tendrils of white fog. Its two arms were also quite long with each of its claw hands about twice the size of a human head. When the claw hands were occasionally swung, there would be a couple of wind blades that violently shot out which were powerful enough to shatter the

enormous rock beside it which sent the rock fragments flying in all directions. A pair of blood-red eyes were filled with a wild and fierce killing intent. At this moment, this pair of blood-red eyes was viciously staring at the six human figures around it.

“It is actually a ‘Snow Demon Sky Ape.’ These people are really quite bold. The strength of an adult ‘Snow Monster Sky Ape’ is sufficient enough to shatter gold and split mountains. Although this large fellow in front appears to have just entered the adult stage, it could at least be comparable to a three star Dou Wang...” Xiao Yan immediately spoke with surprise in his heart as soon as he saw that extremely eye-catching, enormous ape at the entrance of the valley.

“Those few fellows aren’t weak.” Yao Lao’s voice sounded faintly.

Xiao Yan hurriedly swept his gaze over the six people surrounding the ‘Snow Demon Sky Ape.’ When his gaze swept over the badge on the chest of one person, his expression involuntarily changed a little. “These fellows are all students from the Inner Academy? Why are they this strong? Huh? Senior Han Yue is also here?”

At the end of his words, he suddenly let out a ‘huh’ sound. This was because he suddenly saw a graceful lady standing on the leftmost side. That obviously cold but alluring silver-colored dress and long, bright silver-colored hair was none other than Han Yue who could be considered to have quite a good relationship with Xiao Yan back within the Inner Academy.

“Why have all of them gathered here?” Xiao Yan frowned slightly. Although he did not know the rest of the people other than Han Yue, he was able to gather some clues from their badges. In this Inner Academy, which students, other than the experts ranked within the top ten of the ‘Strong Ranking,’ would have the courage and resolution to come and lay siege to a Dou Wang class Magical Beast?”

“Hei, this large fellow is really formidable. Han Yue, is there really that thing that you have said inside? You better not lie to us in order to get us to be your free fighters. This ‘Snow Demon Sky Ape’ is a beast that even

some of the Elders in the Inner Academy cannot defeat. If anyone of us were to fight it alone, no one would be able to beat it. Once it becomes crazy, we would be faced with quite a bit of trouble.” While Xiao Yan was feeling doubt in his heart, a rough and crude sound suddenly appeared. His eyes glanced over and discovered that the person who had spoken was a man with a strong build and some stubbles on his face. The latter’s strong build was such that he was taller than ordinary people by two heads. His large body caused others to feel an unusual suppression. However, the thing that people paid the most attention to was an enormous metal hammer in his right hand. Under the shine of the sunlight, the black color of the metal hammer reflected a thick and deep glow.

Looking at the green veins bulging on the man’s hand, the weight of this dark,black metal hammer was likely not light.

“Senior Yan Hao, you can rest assured about this. I am clear about the danger involved, and would not joke around with this kind of thing. If any error occurs after this, Han Yue will not shrink from any denouncement of Senior Yan Hao.” Han Yue softly said. Her voice was as clear as an icy mountain spring, causing people to have a strange feeling of icy water flow through their hearts.

“Ha ha, Yan Hao. Han Yue knows how to weigh things when it comes to such matters. You need not be overly suspicious. If there is really that thing in the valley, the benefit that we will gain will be quite great. The grand competition will begin after another four months. If we could advance our strength during this time, the position of an Elder is something that we can anticipate.” A clear laugh sounded. Xiao Yan’s gaze followed the voice and looked over. His heart involuntarily praised a little. The person who spoke was a handsome, young man wearing green-colored clothes. The young man’s age was around twenty-six to twenty-seven years old. At this age, most people had already began to lose the wild arrogance of a young man. Moreover, it was also due to this smiling manner of his that caused other people to have a good opinion of him. He wore his green garment well and carried an elegant demeanor that caused

people to be endlessly surprised.

“Yan Hao?” Xiao Yan quietly muttered this name in his heart. He vaguely felt that it was a little familiar.

“Lin Xiuya, it is easy for you to say. This is a Magical Beast that could rival an elite Dou Wang. Even with our strength, it is possible for us to be seriously injured and die if we are not cautious. Moreover, Yan Hao only wants to confirm things. After all, no one wants to spend so much effort and end up in a situation of being empty-handed.” A man whose face was a little dark rolled his eyes as he explained.

“Lin Xiuya? It is really unexpected that he is Lin Xiuya that Lin Yan spoke of. Looking at his disposition, it is little wonder why even the wildly arrogant Lin Yan would have a faint fear when mentioning him.” Xiao Yan’s heart leaped slightly. This name was something that he had heard of quite a number of times. Most of the students within the Inner Academy would carry slight admiration and respect when mentioning this name. Perhaps this person may not be the strongest in the Inner Academy, but if one were to discuss charm, it was likely that no one in the entire Inner Academy could stand shoulder to shoulder with him.

“Ke ke, there is no useless person who could entire the top ten of the ‘Strong Ranking.’ Although our true strength may not be comparable to the ‘Snow Demon Sky Ape,’ the beast would likely be at a disadvantage if we were to really fight.” Lin Xiuya laughed. His long finger gently flicked a green-colored longsword he held in his other hand. A clear sound was immediately but quietly emitted. Following the emission of the sound, threads of nearly substance-like rotating wind suddenly appeared around his body out of nowhere, rotating non-stop while emitting ‘hu hu’ sounds.

“All of you, it is a little childish to have such a pointless argument now. Since all of you have already followed me here, it means that the thing similarly possesses a great attraction to all of you. Therefore, the most important thing now is to first defeat this ‘Snow Demon Sky Ape’... all of you clearly know about the value of that thing. Once news spreads, it is likely that there would be quite a number of people from the ‘Black-Corner Region’ coming over to steal it. At that time, it would be too late to

regret.” Han Yue knit her brows slightly as she spoke in an indifferent, cold voice when she heard the somewhat non-uniform opinions.

The few people by the side laughed when the words left Han Yue’s mouth. They shrugged their shoulders and did not continue arguing. Instead, they turned their gazes toward the ‘Snow Demon Sky Ape’ in the middle.

“Later, the five of us will act to stop it. Everyone should just use whatever skills they have. This fellow is not something easy to deal with. Han Yue’s strength is a little weaker and it is better for her not to participate in this kind of siege. Instead, you should help us pay attention to the movements around.” Lin Xiuya tilted the longsword in his hand and pointed it to the ground as he spoke with a smile.

“Yes.” Han Yue hesitated a little when she heard this before gently inclining her chin. Her toes pressed onto a huge rock and her figure withdrew in a light manner. Finally, her lovely body stood straight on the top of a tree with a wide unobscured view.

“Ke ke, everyone. We have not joined hands for a long while. I wonder if you have had any improvement.” Lin Xiuya laughed faintly when he saw Han Yue withdraw. His green clothes shook slightly as a powerful aura suddenly surged out from his body. Feeling the strength of this aura, it faintly felt like it exceeded that of a Dou Ling.

“It is really unexpected that even you have one step to go into the Dou Wang class. You are really worthy of being the champion among our batch of new students back then.” The large Yan Hao involuntarily sighed in surprise as he sensed the powerful aura seeping out from Lin Xiuya.

“Haven’t you also touched that boundary layer...” Lin Xiuya rolled his eyes at Yan Hao as he spoke.

“I have only touched it extremely vaguely, and cannot be compared with you.” Yan Hao laughed bitterly and shook his head. He held the jet-black metal hammer in his hand and violently rotated it in front of him. Immediately, a frightening aura tore the air and emitted a sharp sound.

The other three people also allowed their Qis to erupt to their limits

after Lin Xiuya and Wu Hao. These people were actually strong people who were at the peak of the Dou Ling class. From the looks of their Qis, they were actually not the least bit weaker than Lin Yan.

“This Inner Academy is indeed worthy of being a place in the continent where the talented gathers. All of these people are merely around twenty-five years old but they are fast reaching the Dou Wang class. This kind of talent could be called great. Geniuses who even the Heavens would indulge upon no matter where one placed them...” Xiao Yan involuntarily sighed in surprise within his heart as he sensed the five powerful auras.

Appearing to have sensed the fighting atmosphere that had spread over from the surroundings, the bright redness in the enormous eyes of the ‘Snow Demon Sky Ape’ in the battleground became much denser. His black metal-like claws heavily smashed on his chest which was covered with white-colored fur. Immediately, a ripple with underlying strength that was visible to the naked eye suddenly spread out. Wherever the force spread to, the surrounding enormous rocks would emit ‘ka cha’ sounds and would be about to break, producing numerous crack lines.

“Foolish humans. Do not have delusions of snatching the ‘Core Quenching Body Milk.’ If you leave now, I will spare your lives!” The ‘Snow Demon Sky Ape’ lifted its enormous head. Its blood-red gaze stared intently at the few people. After being silent for a while, a low, deep, arrogant, wild, thunderclap-like voice suddenly sounded by the ears of everyone present.

“Huh? This ‘Snow Demon Sky Ape’ is only at the Dou Wang class but it can actually open its mouth to speak?” Xiao Yan’s heart felt surprised at the action of the ‘Snow Demon Sky Ape’ for a moment before he was abruptly startled, “Core Quenching Body Milk?”

Xiao Yan repeatedly uttered this name in his mouth. A moment later, his body suddenly trembled. His face was filled with a stunned, yet wildly joyous look.

“This place actually has the ‘Core Quenching Body Milk,’ a kind of spiritual item of the land?”

# Chapter 511: Experts of the Strong Ranking

The 'Core Quenching Body Milk' was born underground. After experiencing the pure pressure of the land, it would take the form of fog after a hundred years and would be called 'Core Fog.' At this point, it possessed the unique effect of strengthening one's body. After merging for over a thousand years, it would form a liquid form. If the quality was even higher, it would be called 'Core Quenching Body Milk.' It possessed the magical effect of washing and refining one's bones. Moreover, that extremely pure and large strength of the land in the milk would even help a person who had reached the peak to break through the barrier between levels. Of course, there was naturally still quite a great chance of failure.

Ordinary speaking, due to the harsh condition for the formation of this kind of 'Core Quenching Body Milk,' there were very few people who had actually seen it. Even Xiao Yan had only heard Yao Lao randomly mentioning it once before. At that time, Xiao Yan had firmly remembered it in his heart because he had heard of the magical effect of washing and refining one's bones that made one greedy for it. Therefore, Xiao Yan remembered it from his heart now. It was just unexpected that he would actually hear of this natural spiritual treasure that not many people knew about.

The wild joy on his face was maintained for quite awhile before it was gradually withdrawn. He carefully suppressed his aura and breathing. His gaze, however, involuntarily shot into the mountain valley as his heart softly muttered, "Is that 'Core Quenching Body Milk' inside?"

"Why? Are you interested?" Yao Lao's laughter sounded within Xiao Yan's heart.

"Hee hee, it would be a lie if I said that I am not interested in this kind of mysterious treasure. If I am able to obtain a little 'Core Quenching Body Milk,' it is likely that I would be able to break through to the Dou Ling class within one to two months. Moreover, didn't Teacher also say that this 'Core Quenching Body Milk' also possesses the effect of washing and refining one's bones? If I am able to obtain it, I think that it would have a



benefit that is difficult to measure when I break through to the Dou Wang class in the future.” Xiao Yan did not hide his yearning for the ‘Core Quenching Body Milk.’ He was carrying quite a number of things on his back: his missing father, the shame of being chased out of the empire, and the possibility of having to contend with that extremely mysterious ‘Hall of Souls’ in the future because of Yao Lao. These things required him to possess extremely great strength. Otherwise, forget about searching for his father and protecting Yao Lao. It was likely that he would not even dare to return to the Jia Ma Empire. What face did a dog who had lost his home and could not even return to it have to act free and unfretted outside?

“Yes. It is indeed totally beyond my expectations to be able to find the ‘Core Quenching Body Milk’ here. The benefits you would receive from obtaining it are also something that is understood without saying. However, this ‘Snow Demon Sky Ape’ is not something easy to deal with. Normally, a Dou Wang class Magical Beast may already possess some intelligence but it would be far from the level where it can open its mouth to speak. I think that this should be related to the ‘Core Quenching Body Milk’ that it is protecting.” Yao Lao smiled and said.

Xiao Yan nodded slightly. Even a Unique Beast of Ancient Times like the ‘Heaven Swallowing Python’ is unable to speak at the Dou Wang class. The ‘Snow Demon Sky Ape’ may be considered a rare unique beast, but it is difficult for it to be comparable to the ‘Heaven Swallowing Python.’ Therefore, the only thing that could explain why its intelligence was so great was the legendary ‘Core Quenching Body Milk.’

“What should we do now? Should we take advantage of their fight and secretly enter?” Xiao Yan asked softly in his heart,

“It is somewhat impossible for you to enter from the entrance of the valley. If you are to fly, the movement in the air would likely attract their attention. The strength of these fellows is quite great. Therefore, it is very difficult for you to sneak in under their eyes.” Yao Lao helplessly said.

“What should we do then?”

“Wait. Let’s see if we can once again be fishermen.” Yao Lao smiled gently and said.

“Teacher is thinking of waiting for them to fight until both parties are seriously injured?” Xiao Yan was startled before he immediately spoke awkwardly. It was fine if he was not acquainted with all of them. However, Xiao Yan felt that Han Yue was not a bad person. Hearing the conversation earlier, it appeared that she was the first to find this place. If he was to be a fisherman and snatch their spoils from the fight, it would really be a little...

“Ke ke, you have overestimated this group of people. Although this ‘Snow Demon Sky Ape’ appears to have just entered its adult stage, it is ultimately a kind of rare unique Magical Beast no matter how one puts it. This kind of Magical Beast has a wild and violent blood flowing within it. It would be fine if this kind of wild and violent bloodline was not awakened. Once it is awoken, even a five star elite Dou Wang could only temporarily hide from its cutting edge. This group of people doesn’t even have a true strong Dou Wang. How can they defeat it? At that time, there might be some injuries and deaths if they mess up.” Yao Lao smiled and explained

Shock drew across Xiao Yan’s eyes when he heard this. It was really unexpected that this ‘Snow Demon Sky Ape’ explosive strength would actually be this frightening. From the looks of it, it appeared that the chances of Han Yue’s group obtaining victory were not very great.

During the time that Xiao Yan was conversing with Yao Lao, the tense atmosphere suddenly erupted under the provocation of the aura. Five figures turned into vague shadows. Each of them carried incomparably ferocious forces. They appeared like a few different colored beams of light as they viciously attacked the ‘Snow Demon Sky Ape’ that stood loftily.

“Roar!”

Seeing that Lin Xiuya’s group still refused to withdraw, the crimson color and killing intent within the eyes of the ‘Snow Demon Sky Ape’ became much denser. At a glance, it caused people to form a cold feeling within

their hearts. An enormous sharp claw wildly slammed against its chest as the 'Snow Demon Sky Ape' bowl like mouth was widened. An ear-piercing roar that could shatter an enormous rock was explosively released.

Under the loud roar of the 'Snow Demon Sky Ape,' the speed of Lin Xiuya and the others clearly became a little slower. The moment the speed of their bodies had been reduced, the feet of the 'Snow Demon Sky Ape' viciously stomped on the ground. The entire mountain valley trembled at this moment. His body borrowed the strong pushing force, and the ape shot out like a white-colored giant cannonball. In the blink of an eye, the ape appeared in front of Yan Hao, who was charging right at the front of the group. It clenched its claws and cold air swiftly agglomerated around it. In an instant, it formed a half-foot-long icy-cold claw.

The icy-cold claw danced and grabbed at Yan Hao's heart. This kind of vicious tactic carried a sharp killing intent. There was not the slightest intention of sparring and warming up. From the looks of it, this 'Snow Demon Sky Ape' had the intention to kill from the start.

The 'Snow Demon Sky Ape' had an agility and speed that did not correspond to its enormous size. This clearly far exceeded Yan Hao's expectations. However, Yan Hao was not a weakling without combat experience. Despite being surprised, the jet-black metal hammer in his hand was violently lashed out with inertia. The metal hammer tore through the air, emitting a sharp sound that caused even Xiao Yan, who was hiding in the forest, to frown slightly.

"Bang!"

The claw and the metal hammer violently collided. Ice pieces scattered in all directions under the loud sound of the collision. Yan Hao's body swiftly shot back. Along the way, the branches on the trees that his body collided completely broke. His body finally came to a stop after breaking over ten large trees in this manner. He lifted his face and there was a faint trace of bloodstain on the corner of his mouth.

"Ha ha, good. It is worthy of being the 'Snow Demon Sky Ape' that is known for its strength. However, you are still a little lacking if you want to

kill me with one blow.” Yan Hao parted his mouth and laughed after rubbing away the blood trace from the corner of his mouth. He ignored the injuries on his body as he once again tightened his grip on the metal hammer. Just like a humanoid tank, he charged at the ‘Snow Demon Sky Ape’ which was being entertained by Lin Xiuya and three others.

The few human figures swiftly flashed at the entrance to the valley. The formation that they formed firmly locked the enormous white figure at their middle. Wild and powerful Dou Qi violently gushed out as though it had been freed. Various extremely strong Dou Techniques carried sharp wind and numerous low cries as they heavily hacked at the body of the ‘Snow Demon Sky Ape.’ The attacks brought about ice shavings and white-colored fur that scattered in all directions.

The ferocity of the attack of Lin Xiuya and the others had somewhat exceeded Xiao Yan and even Yao Lao’s expectations. These fellows did indeed possess a body of impressive abilities proving their ability to be among the most precious top ten on the ‘Strong Ranking’ within the Inner Academy. Their attacks may be ferocious but the defense of the ‘Snow Demon Sky Ape’ was similarly frighteningly firm. Under its fur, it appeared to be covered by a layer of hard ice. No matter how one attacked it, one would only bring about waves of ice shavings. One ultimately had difficulty causing it much substantial damage. According to this kind of fighting, it was likely that Lin Xiuya’s group would not be able to hang on for long. After all, the recovery ability of the ‘Snow Demon Sky Ape’ was far from what humans could compare with.

The fighting between both parties became increasingly intense with the flow of time and was becoming increasingly heated. The messy large rocks that spread all over the entrance of the valley were shattered as the energy from both sides collided. This kind of destructive strength caused Xiao Yan, who was hiding in the darkness, to become somewhat speechless. They were really worthy of being strong people who were about to enter the Dou Wang class. This kind of fighting strength was indeed far from what a Da Dou Shi, or even an ordinary Dou Ling could compare with.

The green-colored longsword in Lin Xiuya’s hand shook. His feet gently

pressed on a spiralling wind that had surfaced out of nowhere and his body rose into mid-air. His originally clear and indifferent face of his had an additional solemnness at this moment. He eyed the 'Snow Demon Sky Ape' surrounded by Yan Hao and the three others below. It appeared lively and showed no sign of tiredness. He frowned intently as the long sword in his hand trembled. Green-colored Dou Qi moved along his Qi Paths and swiftly swarmed into the body of the sword. Following the pouring of Dou Qi, the surface of the green-colored longsword suddenly became vaguely visible. Its size also suddenly expanded by dozens of times. A substance-like tornado lingered on the surface of the sword while the surrounding air began to fluctuate swiftly.

"Yan Hao. Block the beast!" Lin Xiuya cried in a deep voice as he held the green-colored longsword tightly in his hands.

Sensing the frightening wind that was being brewed mid-air, Yan Hao and the rest understood that Lin Xiuya was displaying his masterpiece. They immediately nodded. The attack from their hands also grew increasingly ferocious as they tried their best to prevent the 'Snow Demon Sky Ape' from interrupting the Lin Xiuya's agglomeration of Dou Qi.

The 'Snow Demon Sky Ape' similarly sensed the frightening force that was agglomerating in the sky. The sharpness of this force caused the fur on its entire body to stand vertically. A stern roar was wildly released from its mouth. Immediately, a snow-white energy ripple was swiftly released. Some of the enormous rocks along the way were instantly turned into snow-colored ice pieces after the icy-cold ripple passed them.

The sudden eruption from the 'Snow Demon Sky Ape' caused Yan Hao and the others to hurriedly withdraw their hands. Their bodies hurriedly flashed and dodged the icy-cold ripples chasing after them.

After forcing back Yan Hao and the others with one blow, a savage look appeared on the face of the 'Snow Demon Sky Ape.' Its feet abruptly stomped on the ground and its enormous body rushed explosively to the skyline. In an instant, it appeared in front of Lin Xiuya, who had borrowed the strength of the swirling wind to barely remain in mid-air. He parted his mouth at the latter and killing intent surged in its blood-red eyes. Its

sharp claw directly and viciously grabbed at Lin Xiuya's head. From the looks of the posture, if he were to be struck, Lin Xiuya would likely end up with his brains scattered in all directions regardless of how strong he was.

Hiding in the forest, Xiao Yan eyed Lin Xiuya as the 'Snow Demon Sky Ape' closed in. He involuntarily shook his head. It was likely that the odds were against this unlucky fellow...

However, the moment Xiao Yan quietly sighed in his heart, he saw the back of Lin Xiuya, who had nowhere to borrow strength from in mid-air, shake. Immediately, a pair of thin green-colored energy wings suddenly shot out. The wings flapped as his body nimbly dodged the killing move of the agile 'Snow Demon Sky Ape.' Moreover, he borrowed the strength and rose dozens of feet higher. The longsword in his hand swiftly trembled and repeatedly emitted a clear sword humming. The air around him fluctuated intensely. Clearly, Lin Xiuya's incomparably sharp Dou Technique had been brewed to completion!

"This... Dou Qi transformation into wings? This fellow... has advanced to the Dou Wang class?"

Xiao Yan stared blankly at the pair of energy wings on Lin Xiuya's back. Everyone in the battleground was startled at this moment.

# Chapter 512: Wild Violent Bloodline

The sudden appearance of the Dou Qi wings on Lin Xiuya's back not only caused Xiao Yan to be shocked. Even Yan Hao and the others who were familiar with him had faces that were involuntarily stunned. It was a long while later before they gradually recovered. They exchanged glances with one another, and a solemn look flashed across all their eyes.

Although Yan Hao had touched a little of the barrier of the Dou Wang class, that little contact merely caused him to be a little stronger than an ordinary strong person at the peak of the Dou Ling class. There was still a great gap if he wanted to reach the point where he could truly rely on his strength to agglomerate Dou Qi wings just like Lin Xiuya. From this, one could see that Lin Xiuya had once again surpassed him.

Dou Qi transformation into wings was basically an extremely symbolical result in the training of Dou Qi. This symbol represented a natural barrier in becoming a strong person on the continent. Everyone clearly knew that as long as one was able to transform Dou Qi into wings, it represented that one would be able to enter into the class that caused countless number of people to halt their progress: Dou Wang! The simple two words were the symbol which countless numbers of talented individuals had trained hard to achieve. However, the hardship that these two words represented caused most of the people to halt their progress before reaching that stage. Finally, these people would quietly withdraw.

Dou Ling and Dou Wang were merely separated by a class. However, the difference between them was larger than any of the class differences before them. Those of the Dou Ling class or the classes before it could only squander the Dou Qi in their body to fight with others. Although people like Xiao Yan may have Dou Qi that was stronger and purer in their body, regardless of how powerful one's Dou Qi was, there would be a time when it would be exhausted and there would be a limit to its strength.

As long as one entered the Dou Wang class, however, the Dou Qi in one's body would begin to respond with the nearly endless majestic energy

in the vast outside world and vice versa. It would maneuver this energy, transforming it for his own use. It was not impossible for that terrifying energy to tear the mountains and split the ground. From this, it was sufficient to see the difference between the two. One relied on the strength of one's body while the other maneuvered the natural energy. At a glance it would be obvious just which was stronger and which was weaker.

Therefore, everyone displayed similar expressions when they saw the energy wings on Lin Xiuya's back.

"Green Killing Tornado!"

While everyone was stunned, a cold stern cry was suddenly emitted from Lin Xiuya's mouth. Following the sound of the cry, everyone felt that the flowing wind in the mountain valley appeared to suddenly solidify. Quickly following this, wild wind rose with great force. An extremely powerful strength swiftly agglomerated in mid-air. In merely the blink of an eye, the agglomeration of the strength was complete. Finally, the powerful strength tore through the air. The sharp rushing wind sound was like a whistle that lingered endlessly by people's ears.

"Xiu!"

A vague green-colored shadow containing an extremely powerful wind shot explosively down from above. Although the green-colored shadow was extremely vague, one could still faintly identify it was a green-colored longsword that was formed by energy. The speed of this longsword was so fast that it was a little frightening. From the looks of the wildly surging rotating wind on its surface, it appeared that this was like an energy object that was compressed and agglomerated from wild wind. This substance-like energy acted in coordination with his Dou Technique, producing an extremely powerful strength.

The target of the green-colored shadow was clearly the 'Snow Demon Sky Ape' which was dozens of feet below Lin Xiuya. Although the latter had borrowed a pushing force to rush to the sky, it ended up being unable to dodge. It was unable to move like it was on the ground since it did not



have any place to leverage strength from and had to face this attack head on. Therefore, even though the 'Snow Demon Sky Ape' sensed the powerful force that was shot over, it did not have the slightest solution. Immediately, it opened its mouth wide and bared its fangs, emitting wave after wave of low roars. A pale-white energy glow flashed swiftly from its body. Finally, it agglomerated into an icy-cold ball that wrapped around the latter.

The ice ball had just agglomerated when the sharp rushing wind sound arrived. The two collided violently and everyone could only hear a loud bang. Immediately, the enormous ice ball swiftly descended. Finally, it collided heavily with the rock fragments not far from the entrance of the valley. The instant it landed on the ground, the frightening landing force formed a large pit over ten meters wide just like that of a cannonball. Numerous thick crack lines began spreading out in all directions. Finally, they extended into the forest.

Seeing the ice ball that had been knocked into the ground, Yan Hao hurriedly moved his body and flashed toward the messy rocks and the tree branches around the spot where the ice ball had landed. Dou Qi swiftly surged within his body in order to prevent the injured 'Snow Demon Sky Ape' from taking the opportunity to escape.

A few gazes firmly stared at that dust permeated spot where the ice ball had landed. A green-colored human figure flashed down from the air. Finally, it firmly landed on the top of a tree. As everyone glanced over, they saw the somewhat pale-faced Lin Xiuya. At this moment, the pair of Dou Qi wings on his back gradually became thinner. An instant later, they turned into glowing particles that permeated the sky with a slight cracking sound before the lights slowly faded into oblivion.

"This fellow is indeed very strong. It is really unexpected that even with so many people blocking it, we did not stall him for too long. If it were not because the Qi Method that I practice is somewhat unique, enabling me to barely agglomerate this pair of wings, I'm afraid that it would really have killed me with that attack. Although I may have escaped from disaster, the exhaustion of my Dou Qi is too great." Lin Xiuya held the green-colored

longsword tightly in his hand as he spoke with a bitter smile to Yan Hao and the others.

“Because of the Qi Method?” Yan Hao and the others were stunned when they heard this. Immediately, they came to a sudden comprehension and their hearts quietly sighed in relief.

“It is actually due to the Qi Method. I did indeed just said that this fellow may already have one foot in the Dou Wang class, but it would be impossible for him to agglomerate Dou Qi into wings while at this stage.” Xiao Yan, whose figure was hidden within the forest, also heard Lin Xiuya’s earlier words. He immediately came to a sudden realization as he quietly muttered in his heart.

Normally speaking as long as one was able to rely on one’s own Dou Qi to agglomerate into a pair of wings, one would be able to be called a strong person who would definitely become a Dou Wang. If one could agglomerate a pair of Dou Qi wings and pause or even fly for a period of time in mid-air, that person would be a true strong Dou Wang. However, the precondition of all of these was the strength of the original body. Relying on some ability of one’s Qi Method was not included in this category. Moreover, they also clearly knew that Lin Xiuya practiced wind affinity Dou Qi. Usually speaking, this kind of Dou Qi would have an easier time agglomerating a pair of Dou Qi wings compared with other affinities. Looking at it in this manner, Lin Xiuya had not truly strode across the enormous gully between a Dou Ling and Dou Wang.

“Senior Lin, is the fight over?” Han Yue also withdrew the shock in her pretty eyes, caused by the powerful strength Lin Xiuya displayed earlier, as she spoke softly from outside the battle circle.

Yan Hao and the rest also recovered when they heard Han Yue’s words. They hurriedly threw their gazes toward the dust permeated area below. They placed their ears close and listened carefully for a while, only to discover that there was no actual movement. Their faces immediately revealed faint joy and tiny doubt.

Lin Xiuya frowned as he eyed the area below which had no movement.

He clearly knew the degree of strength of his attack earlier. Although it was able to cause the 'Snow Demon Sky Ape' to be slightly injured, it was definitely impossible to kill it with just that strength.

A few thoughts flashed across his heart. Lin Xiuya waved his sleeves and a wild wind appeared from nowhere. After which, it blew away all of the dust below.

As the dust gradually dispersed, the enormous pit appeared in everyone's gaze. Since this hole was quite deep, everyone could only see a distant darkness and the slight ice layer which spread around the deep hole.

Lin Xiuya's eyes focused tightly on the distant deep pit. His eyes suddenly became cold as he discovered that there was a faint strange red glow being emitted from the pit.

"Something is not quite right. Be careful!" Lin Xiuya's heart tightened as he reminded in a deep voice.

Lin Xiuya's reminder also caused the expressions of Yan Hao and the rest to become serious. Dou Qi surged out from their bodies and wrapped around them. Seeing them from a distance, it was as though they were a couple of different colored light clusters. However, these light clusters were repeatedly unleashing the pressure of powerful energy.

Xiao Yan, who was hidden in a dark place, was also surprised at the unusual change in the battleground. His gaze stared at the dark-black hole. Due to his sharp Spiritual Perception, he could faintly sense that there seemed to be a frightening thing about to surge out explosively.

"Be a little careful. The strength of the 'Snow Demon Sky Ape' is increasing. Looks like it is just as I had expected. This beast should have already woken its Wild Violent Bloodline. It is likely that the siege by those fellows is going to fail." Yao Lao's voice suddenly sounded within Xiao Yan's heart. There was a gloating feeling that seeped out from his voice.

Xiao Yan was startled when he heard this. He immediately let out a bitter laugh and ceased speaking. All he did was to carefully suppress his Qi and observe the movements in the battleground.

The silence continued for around three to four minutes. As more time elapsed, the strange red glow within the black pit grew increasingly intense. In the end, it was so sensationally red that it was like fresh blood. This kind of unusual phantasmal scene caused an uneasiness to rise within the hearts of Lin Xiuya and the others. If it was not because of the great attraction of the 'Core Quenching Body Milk', it was likely that they would have retreated immediately.

Han Yue stood on the top of a tree. She clenched her cold, sweat-filled hand. Although she was a great distance away from the battleground, she repeatedly felt that there was a pair of wild violent eyes filled with killing intent staring at her from within the red glowing black for some unknown reason. Perhaps that beast which had quite great intelligence knew that if it were not for her discovering that this place concealed the 'Core Quenching Body Milk,' it was likely that all of these troubles would not come about.

"Bang!"

During the time that Han Yue was imagining things, the sound of ice shavings bursting apart suddenly emanated from the black pit. Following the appearance of this sound, everyone's hearts tightened. Immediately, they saw that there was an extremely vague red glow flashing from out from the pit. This speed was so frightening that it left one speechless. Everyone was blank for an instant under this frightening speed. Quickly after this, their expressions changed drastically. There was no need to call out. All of them began to hurriedly withdraw and flee like rabbits.

The red glow first appeared in front of Lin Xiuya who was rushing away explosively. The latter did not even see the exact figure of the other party when he sensed an extremely icy-cold wind viciously smash over from in front of him, seemingly tearing through the air.

As he sensed the sharpness of the wind, the longsword in Lin Xiuya's hand hurriedly danced as he drew numerous wind nets in front of him with great speed. When that icy-cold wind arrived, however, the wind nets merely endured for an instant before they burst apart with a bang. The icy-cold wind that was not completely blocked viciously struck the body of Lin

Xiuya. Immediately, a mouthful of blood was wildly spat out from Lin Xiuya's mouth as his body was heavily shot, like a cannonball, into the forest.

In just a single exchange, Lin Xiuya, who was the strongest among those present, was thrown back in defeat with just a single blow. The expressions of Yan Hao and the others turned extremely ugly.

After the red figure defeated Lin Xiuya, it did not chase after Yan Hao and the others. Instead, its large irritated crimson eyes were directly thrown onto Han Yue, whose silver hair was drifting as she stood on a tree far away. Its roar, which was filled with killing intent, resounded throughout the entire mountain forest.

"Han Yue, leave quickly!" Yan Hao was startled when he saw the target of the red figure. He immediately and hurriedly cried out.

From the top of the tree, Han Yue had also discovered the red figure which was swiftly rushing over. Her icy and alluring face became a little pale. However, she did not lose her presence of mind and flee. She clearly knew that since Lin Xiuya's speed and strength could not last one exchange against the apeh, it was likely that she would only be killed if she were to turn around and flee. If she were to use all her strength to fight, she might perhaps have an extremely small chance of survival.

This intelligent lady did not stumble because of her panic in this instant. Instead, she did her best to find a tiny chance of survival in a hopeless situation.

Han Yue clenched her hand. White-colored cold air swiftly surfaced from it. However, before the Dou Qi agglomerated, the red glow in front suddenly flashed and arrived. A beast's face that was filled with a savage look appeared in the reflection of that pair of beautiful eyes.

"Roar!"

The roar that was filled with killing intent reverberated over the skyline. A cold wind, which was even sharper than when it was chasing Lin Xiuya, viciously tore through the air and smashed down at Han Yue, whose pale-white face and lovely body swayed like a flower in the wind.

Not far away, fury as well as a feeling of being unable to bear the situation surged in the eyes of Yan Hao and the others when they saw the situation. Unfortunately, due to the limitations of their strength, they could not act. They could only watch a beautiful, cold, alluring snow lotus fall in the most wretched manner.

Faced with this nearly fatal blow, Han Yue also gave up. She shut her pretty pupils, and a heart wrenching sadness lifted onto her cold but alluring face.

“Chi!”

The sharp cold wind did not even have the slightest pause because of this sad and moving scene. It still viciously swung toward Han Yue. However, just as the wind was about to make contact with Han Yue’s head, a black shadow that carried the sound of muffled thunder suddenly flashed past. As the black shadow flashed past, the sharp wind actually pounced empty air. Han Yue, who was originally supposed to be struck to death with a palm, disappeared in an instant.

Yan Hao and the others not far away were also stunned at this sudden unexpected turn of events. Immediately, they hurriedly turned their gazes, only to see a black shadow flash and appear on the top of a tree a hundred meters away. Han Yue was lying feebly on his chest and seemed to be terribly frightened.

On the top of the tree, the black shadow lowered his head and eyed that originally cold, alluring person lying against his chest. However, her beautiful face now appeared extremely lovely because of its paleness. Although his hand was extremely comfortable as it drew around that soft and delicate waist, he could only straighten her body due to the few gazes observing them from not far away. With a soft laugh, he asked, “Senior Han Yue, are you alright?”

Only after hearing this voice did Han Yue’s tightly shut long eyelashes tremble a little. She immediately opened them with some surprise. When her gaze landed on the delicate and handsome face in front of her, she suddenly became startled. Finally, a stammering and disbelieving voice

was emitted from her small, red, sleek mouth.

“You... you... Xiao Yan?”

# Chapter 513: Invitation

Xiao Yan smiled and spoke as he eyed the shock covered cold, alluring face, "Are you injured?"

"No." Han Yue shook her head. Her gaze was odd as she looked at Xiao Yan in front of her. The moving flush on her face was quietly reduced as she said a soft thanks. Immediately, she sighed, "It has only been two to three months since I last saw you but you have become much stronger than before. It is likely that there is hardly anyone within the Inner Academy who can surpass your speed."

The speed of the 'Snow Demon Sky Ape' after its mutation was something that even someone of Lin Xiuya's strength could not dodge. Yet, Xiao Yan in front of her was able to rescue her in that split second. This speed was likely something that not one of them present could compare with. This was basically a kind of complete transformational change compared to a couple of months earlier. It was little wonder that Han Yue would lament.

Xiao Yan smiled once again, but did not say anything. He turned his head and his gaze moved toward the red figure which had flashed back to the ground and appeared on an enormous rock. A solemnness immediately flashed across his eyes. At this moment, the snow white fur all over 'Snow Demon Sky Ape' had completely turned into a kind of blood-red color. The killing intent and violence in those large scarlet eyes had become denser. Waves of seemingly substance-like fog repeatedly seeped out from within its body. Once this blood-colored fog contaminated the tree leaves, it would erode the latter until nothing was left. From the appearance of this aura, its strength had nearly soared to more than double what it was earlier.

"Senior Han Yue, this large being appears to be becoming increasingly harder to stop. I think that it is best that we withdraw as soon as possible. Otherwise, I'm afraid..." Xiao Yan knit his brows slightly as he reminded. Yao Lao had mentioned before that after awakening its Wild Violent bloodline, the 'Snow Demon Sky Ape' would be able to contend with a



strong five star Dou Wang for a short period of time. Now that Lin Xiuya had been knocked away and injured, the group would undoubtedly be unable to pose any threat to the ape with their strength. Moreover, if they were careless, it was likely that they would face with quite a great amount of injuries and deaths.

“Yes.” Han Yue smiled bitterly and nodded. The sudden mutation of this ‘Snow Demon Sky Ape’ was beyond her expectations. The strength of their group was insufficient to defeat it. After having witnessed the latter’s frightening strength, she did not hold much hope of being able to obtain the ‘Core Quenching Body Milk.’

Not far away, Yan Hao hurriedly waved his hand when he saw the ‘Snow Demon Sky Ape’ appear to descend into an adjusting condition after having unleashed a ferocious attack. One person flashed into the forest to search for the wounded Lin Xiuya. The remaining people carefully rushed to the tree top where Han Yue and Xiao Yan stood. Immediately, they used odd gazes to weigh Xiao Yan. The speed that he had displayed earlier was sufficient to cause these people, who belonged in the top experts in the Inner Academy, to withdraw their underestimation.

“Ke ke, this friend. Are you also a student of the Inner Academy? Why have I not seen you in the past?” Yan Hao could not help but feel some doubt after observing Xiao Yan. With the latter’s speed, he ought to at least be an expert on the ‘Strong Ranking.’ Why was it that this person had an unfamiliar face.

“Senior Yan Hao, he is called Xiao Yan. He is a new student who entered the Inner Academy only a couple of months ago.” Han Yue smiled and introduced him.

“New student?” Yan Hao immediately exclaimed when he heard this. His gaze was a little strange. A new student who had entered the Inner Academy less than half a year ago actually possessed this kind of strength? Was it the case that the strength of the current Outer Academy had already reached this stage?

A couple of gazes swept over Xiao Yan’s body. A moment later, their

doubt became increasingly dense. From the looks of the degree of density of his Qi, the latter's strength was obviously around that of a Da Dou Shi. However, why was it that the speed that he had unleashed earlier was something that even they could not catch up to?

Xiao Yan merely smiled when faced with the doubtful gazes of Yan Hao and the others. He did not explain anything. All he did was cup his hands at the few of them and greet them extremely politely. No matter how one put it, these few people in front of him were all experts at the top of the Inner Academy. Their strength far exceeded someone like Bai Cheng. He would naturally not reject such an opportunity to establish a good relationship with them.

"Xiao Yan? I seem to have heard this name. Some time earlier, was it not said that the new students defeated the older student groups during the 'Fire Energy Hunting Competition?' It seems like the leader of that new student group is called Xiao Yan, right? I think that this person should be the same person." A yellow-clothed man with a dark complexion but exceptionally bright eyes mused for a moment before he suddenly spoke.

Yan Hao and the others were startled when they heard these words. Immediately, they appeared to have recalled that news. Yan Hao smiled and said, "So that Xiao Yan is actually you. This name is extremely well known. Back then, when we entered the Inner Academy, that Lin Xiuya and I were still eventually defeated by the hands of the 'White Demon Group.' It is really unexpected that the wave behind pushes the one ahead. This batch of new students is even fiercer. You actually directly finished off both the 'Black White Evil Stopper.' You do indeed have some ability."

Xiao Yan involuntarily laughed bitterly when he saw the strange gazes of those few people. He said, "I was only lucky. Back then, Senior Yan Hao and Lin Xiuya fought the 'Black White Evil Stopper' by yourselves. On the other hand, I relied on the entire new student group. How can we compare these situations?" Xiao Yan had also heard a little about some of the things back then. This Yan Hao and Lin Xiuya were people with haughty bones. The other new students of that batch had difficulty entering their discerning eyes. Therefore, the two of them formed a group by themselves

before going on a rampage. It was only near the end that they were narrowly defeated by the hands of the 'White Demon Group.' This was an huge anecdote back then.

"Who cares what tactics were used. It is good to be able to win. Back then, we were a little too arrogant. Otherwise, the first group to break the curse of the 'Fire Energy Hunting Competition' would not have to wait until this year to appear." Yan Hao curled his lips and laughed.

During the period of time that Xiao Yan and the others were conversing, two human figures suddenly rushed out from within the forest. In a few flashes, they appeared beside everyone. They were actually Lin Xiuya, who had been beaten and sent flying into the forest as well as the person who had went to search for him earlier.

"This person is?" Lin Xiuya's face was pale-white at this moment. There was also a faint trace of blood at the corner of his mouth. The green clothes on his body were also tattered. Although his appearance was dire looking, his disposition was not weakened by much. He first smiled bitterly at everyone before involuntarily asking with some surprise when he saw Xiao Yan's unfamiliar face.

"Are you alright?" Yan Hao inquired first before giving Lin Xiuya a brief summary of Xiao Yan's background.

"It is actually brother Xiao Yan. Ke ke, this name is not something unfamiliar." Lin Xiuya also felt shocked after hearing Yan Hao's words. He had personally experienced just how terrifying the speed of the 'Snow Demon Sky Ape' was. It was unexpected that this new student who had entered the Inner Academy less than half a year ago was actually able to rescue someone from its grasp. With this ability, he did have the qualification to converse with them on the same level.

"Ke ke, Senior Lin, I was coincidentally training within the mountains. Earlier I heard the commotion around here and rushed over, only to see that you were fighting with that large beast. Then I saw that Senior Han Yue was in danger, and could not just hide in the corner. Thus, I could only act. Please pardon me if I have disturbed you..." Xiao Yan glanced at the

‘Snow Demon Sky Ape’ which did not attack because of the large number of people present before he spoke with a smile to Lin Xiuya.

“What is there to pardon? Since brother Xiao Yan saved Han Yue’s life, there is no need to hide anything from you. We are laying siege against this ‘Snow Demon Sky Ape’ here because it is protecting a kind of mysterious item. It is said that those who witness it will have a share. If we are truly able to get our hands on it, there will definitely be a share for brother Xiao Yan.” Lin Xiuya gave a careless smile. His random words, however, had the intention of pulling Xiao Yan into this group. This action clearly showed that he thought that Xiao Yan’s strength gave him the qualification to share this reward with them. However, he did not talk about the details of the ‘Core Quenching Body Milk.’ This thing was too precious and he had just met Xiao Yan for the first time. Naturally, he would not easily tell Xiao Yan about this secret item.

Yan Hao and the others were stunned when they heard Lin Xiuya take the initiative to request Xiao Yan to join them. They exchanged glances with one another and were immediately silent. They may not really pay attention to Xiao Yan’s actual strength, but the abnormal speed which he had displayed was something that they could not underestimate. Moreover, this ‘Core Quenching Body Milk’ was something that Han Yue had discovered first. Now that Xiao Yan had saved her life, it was likely that she would not oppose this suggestion by Lin Xiuya. Therefore, after some thoughts revolved around their hearts, they did not voice any opposition.

Xiao Yan was also startled by Lin Xiuya’s frankness. Other people earnestly wished to possess such a treasure by themselves. This fellow was actually able to suppress the hammer and made the most sober and wise suggestion. This mentality was quite deep. However, he could not reveal some of his things in front of other people. Therefore, he could only reject this invitation.

Hence, Xiao Yan shook his head under the attention of everyone. He smiled bitterly and said, “Senior Lin, thank you for your good intentions. However, it is likely that Xiao Yan does not have the blessing to enjoy it.

This ‘Snow Demon Sky Ape’ is not some lowly beast. It is said that the body of this kind of unique beast has a certain Wild Violent bloodline flowing within it. Once it is awoken, its strength will soar for a short period of time. Looking at the change of the beast now, I’m afraid that it is due to it waking up that Wild Violent bloodline. At this moment, forget about an ordinary Dou Wang, even a strong person, whose strength had reached that of a five star Dou Wang, would likely have no means to deal with it. Although my words will be a blow to some people, but I don’t think that the few of us can defeat it.”

“Wild Violent bloodline?” Lin Xiuyan and the others were startled when they heard this information. Their faces immediately changed. Although they knew about this kind of unique beast, their understanding of it was naturally not as deep as Yao Lao. Therefore, they had never heard of whatever this ‘Wild Violent Bloodline’ was. However, looking at the change in the ‘Snow Demon Sky Ape’ earlier, it did match what Xiao Yan had said. Therefore, the expressions of everyone became somewhat ugly. They were naturally aware that they would be unable to eat up a Magical Beast, which could contend with a strong five star Dou Wang, with their strength.

“What should we do now? Don’t tell me that we should give up?” Yan Hao knit his brows and asked Lin Xiuya. The ‘Core Quenching Body Milk’ really did have too great of an attraction to him. It was too much of a pain to ask him to give it up.

Lin Xiuya laughed bitterly and mused for a long while. Only then did he grit his teeth and say, “Forget it. Let’s trust Junior Xiao Yan once. Moreover, I am quite badly injured this time. It is likely that I will require at least half a month before I can recover. Therefore, we can only think of other methods for this siege.”

Yan Hao and the others were a little unwilling when they heard that Lin Xiuya had the intention of temporarily retreating. However, when their eyes swept across the ‘Snow Demon Sky Ape’ emitting a frightening aura not far away, their hearts became chilled and they could only helplessly nod their heads.

“Let’s withdraw. Let’s think of other ways once we have recuperated from our injuries...” Lin Xiuya sighed before immediately cupping his hands toward Xiao Yan. He said, “Brother Xiao Yan, are you going to return to the Inner Academy with us?”

Xiao Yan mused for a while when he heard this. He shook his head and said, “I have come to the mountains to practice a Dou Technique. I have yet to master the Dou Technique, so I don’t have any intentions in returning yet.

“Ke ke, since that is the case, we will return first. There is something that I hope brother Xiao Yan can help with. Please do not mention the matter today to anyone...” Lin Xiuya looked deeply at Xiao Yan before he cupped his hands together and spoke.

“I have the sense to know what to say and what not to say.” Xiao Yan smiled and replied.

“In that case, thank you very much. If there is anything that brother Xiao Yan needs help with in the future, you can come and look for me. There are quite a number of people in the Inner Academy who give me, Lin Xiuya, face.” Lin Xiuya smiled as spoke. He did have have much doubt toward Xiao Yan. Although Xiao Yan’s speed was shocking, it was impossible for him to barge into the mountain valley that was protected by the ‘Snow Demon Sky Ape’ by just relying on his strength as a Da Dou Shi.

“Let’s go.” Once he said that, he waved his hand. He took the lead to turn his body and swiftly rush toward the exit of the deep mountains. Behind him, the somewhat unwilling Yan Hao and the others could only follow.

“Junior Xiao Yan, be a little more careful when you train deep in the mountains.” Han Yue smiled at Xiao Yan and gave him a concerned reminder. After which, she turned her body and rushed into the distance with her silver hair drifting in the air.

Xiao Yan’s gaze eyed Lin Xiuya and the others who were gradually disappearing from his sight. A long while later, Xiao Yan let out a soft sigh. He laughed bitterly and softly said, “I’m really sorry. It is indeed for

your own good that I urge all of you to leave. If you are to continue to pester it, it is likely that none of you can leave this place once the ‘Snow Demon Sky Ape’ completely erupts...” After Yao Lao’s reminder, Xiao Yan clearly knew just how frightening a ‘Snow Demon Sky Ape’ was after it had awoken its blood. Forget about Lin Xiuya and the few others at the peak of the Dou Ling class. Even five true elite Dou Wangs would likely not dare entangle themselves with the ‘Snow Demon Sky Ape’ at such a time.

Xiao Yan turned his head around and threw his gaze at the ‘Snow Demon Sky Ape,’ whose irritated Qi had gradually reduced after Lin Xiuya’s group took leave. Xiao Yan quietly sighed in relief. His hand gently rubbed his arm under his sleeve. At that spot was a beautiful small snake that was slightly twisting around. With this little fellow around, he would be able to put up a fight with the ‘Snow Demon Sky Ape’ at that time.

As this thought turned in his heart, the corner of Xiao Yan’s mouth was suddenly lifted. He stared intently at the ‘Snow Demon Sky Ape’ and muttered, “You beast. You can act crazy now. Once you enter your weak phase at night, I will come and take care of you... your ‘Core Quenching Body Milk’ is something that I definitely want.”

Xiao Yan laughed softly. His body moved and lightning swiftly formed under his feet. After which, his body turned into a black shadow and swiftly shuttled into the vast forest under the sound of low muffled thunder. He immediately disappeared...

# Chapter 514: The Fight Between the Python and Ape

Stars filled the sky as icy-cool moonlight scattered down from above, wrapping the entire mountain region in a layer of faint silver light. It caused the region to appear hazy and mysterious.

Other than some Magical Beasts searching for food within the mountains deep in the night, most of them had returned home to sleep. The entire forest had descended into silence at this moment. It was a long time before a low roar was slowly transmitted from far away before finally spreading and gradually disappearing.

A black figure suddenly and quietly flew through the pitch black night. A pair of enormous wings flapped slightly, lifting a tiny air flow. The figure's body borrowed the tiny air flow as it flashed across the night sky, passing through without disturbing anything.

“Xiu!”

A human figure suddenly appeared out of nowhere on top of a tree outside of the valley. His gaze was shining as he eyed the interior of the dark-black mountain alley. Due to the ferocious battle during the day, the entrance to the mountain valley was a total mess. Large and small craters spread out in a chaotic manner.

Xiao Yan laughed softly as he eyed the deep mountain valley. He waved his sleeve gently and a seven-colored shadow immediately shot out from his sleeves. Finally, it joyfully and repeatedly revolved around Xiao Yan's body. Hissing sounds were emitted from its mouth unceasingly.

“What a greedy fellow.” Xiao Yan helplessly shook his head when he saw the eyes of the ‘Heaven Swallowing Python’ staring intently at his storage ring. With a shake of his hand, a bottle of ‘Amethyst Lion Birth Essence’ appeared in his hand.

5egyrfThe ‘Amethyst Lion Birth Essence’ had just appeared when the body of the ‘Heaven Swallowing Python’ swiftly charged over in a



lightning-like manner. It took advantage of Xiao Yan's unprepared state to entangle its long body with both Xiao Yan's hand and the bottle. It extended its snake's tongue and probed it deep into the bottle before sucking viciously. The 'Amethyst Lion Birth Essence' within the jade bottle was reduced by nearly one-third with that one action.

Xiao Yan's palm pulled the head of the 'Heaven Swallowing Python' away before he hurriedly snatched back the jade bottle. When he saw that there was only around two-thirds of the quantity within it, he involuntarily smacked his mouth in his heartache. The appetite of this greedy fellow was growing increasingly larger. In the past, a few drops would satisfy it. Now, it actually wanted to drink this much. If it continued with this kind of appetite, the few bottles of the 'Amethyst Essence' that remained would be insufficient for it to eat.

The 'Heaven Swallowing Python' let out its snake tongue in satisfaction after viciously drinking a few mouthfuls of 'Amethyst Essence.' It wiggled its long body and coiled around Xiao Yan's arm. Under the moonlight, the seven-colored python reflected a brilliant luster and appeared extremely beautiful.

Xiao Yan turned his head slightly after storing the 'Amethyst Essence.' His eyes coincidentally came into eye contact with those snake eyes which contained a faint seven colors. Immediately, a feeling surged up within his heart: bewitching. It was the same feeling he had when he saw Queen Medusa for the first time.

Xiao Yan's throat rolled as he swallowed his saliva. The current 'Heaven Swallowing Python' appeared to have an increasing number of similarities to that of Queen Medusa. This...

Xiao Yan laughed bitterly and sighed. His hand gently rubbed the small head of the 'Heaven Swallowing Python.' The latter docilely narrowed its bewitching snake eyes. Its snake's tongue was extended toward his palm. That squishy feeling caused Xiao Yan to feel itchy.

"Little fellow, you must endure. Do not let that woman swallow your soul. Otherwise, I'm afraid that the both of us will not have good endings."

Xiao Yan sighed and shook his head. Whenever he recalled Queen Medusa, who was a mixture of bewitchment and killer's rage, he would have a headache. Of course, anyone who had such a complicated dispute with an extremely strong Dou Zong would likely not be too happy. This was especially the case when this extremely strong person was the type who viewed human lives as trash. Killing a person was basically easier than killing a chicken to her. She did not feel the slightest burden when killing a person.

The 'Heaven Swallowing Python' emitted a wave of hissing sounds, appearing to have understood Xiao Yan's words. There was a luster flickering within those bewitching snake's eyes.

"Ugh, these are all problems in the future. Now that you have eaten until you are full, you must do some work for me. If you dare be lazy, you can forget about eating the 'Amethyst Essence' in the future." Xiao Yan patted the 'Heaven Swallowing Python' as he threw away the thoughts in his heart as he spoke with a laugh.

Xiao Yan's threat clearly possessed a great effect toward the 'Heaven Swallowing Python.' This little fellow hurriedly nodded its head. It shook its tail and its body turned into a seven-colored glow that flashed in front of Xiao Yan. Its speed caused Xiao Yan to be only able to see a few light rays shuttling passed.

Xiao Yan shook his head and slowly flapped the Purple Cloud Wings on his back. His body gradually rose into the air and quietly flew toward the mountain valley. The 'Heaven Swallowing Python' was circling around his body, protecting him.

Xiao Yan's flying speed was extremely slow. The entire entrance to the mountain valley did not have the slightest sound. The complete silence was such that it was frightening.

However, just as Xiao Yan was merely around a couple of dozens of meters from the valley's entrance, the scales of the 'Heaven Swallowing Python,' that was drifting around him, suddenly became vertical. A somewhat sharp hissing sound was emitted from its mouth, and it

reverberated throughout this entrance of the mountain valley.

Xiao Yan's heart was shocked when he saw this action of the 'Heaven Swallowing Python.' He hurriedly came to a stop. Dou Qi swiftly flowed within his body as his gaze stared intently at the deep mountain valley.

Following the flow of time, a pair of bright red lights gradually appeared from within the dark-black mountain valley. Soon after, the glow gradually became bigger before the pair of bright red glowing spots turned into a pair of huge red-colored eyes. The low sound of footsteps could be heard under the faint moonlight.

Xiao Yan quietly sighed in relief when he saw the 'Snow Demon Sky Ape' that appeared under the moonlight. The fur of the latter had currently turned back into a snow-white color. Moreover, the Qi that the surface of its body emitted was also much weaker compared to the daytime. Clearly, the weakened feeling after awaking its bloodline caused it to have difficulty reaching its peak condition.

A pair of bright-red, large eyes stared intently at Xiao Yan in mid-air. Perhaps it should be... the 'Heaven Swallowing Python' beside Xiao Yan... Since they were both Magical Beasts, the 'Snow Demon Sky Ape' was not unfamiliar with the aura emitted from the 'Heaven Swallowing Python.' The Qi from the snake caused it to feel uneasy as well as a little fearful.

The serpent and the ape looked at each other under the moonlight. Two powerful Qis gradually rose. Under the pressure of these two forces, Xiao Yan, given his current strength, actually felt asphyxia.

An invisible Spiritual Strength rose out from the dark black ring on his finger, wrapping Xiao Yan within it. It also isolated the pressuring force of both the 'Heaven Swallowing Python' and the 'Snow Demon Sky Ape.' Yao Lao's voice sounded within Xiao Yan's heart, "Let the 'Heaven Swallowing Python' block the 'Snow Demon Sky Ape.' You should seize the time and enter the mountain valley to search for the 'Core Quenching Body Milk.'"

"Ai." Xiao Yan nodded his head slightly. He turned toward the 'Heaven Swallowing Python' by his side and cried out softly, "Little fellow, block it."

"Hiss!"

The 'Heaven Swallowing Python' emitted a wave of hissing sound when it heard Xiao Yan's orders. A faint seven-colored glow suddenly surged out from its body. Following the appearance of the strong seven-colored light, the former's body swelled swiftly and abruptly at a pace visible to the naked eye.

In merely the blink of an eye, the originally mini pocket-sized 'Heaven Swallowing Python' had transformed into a large being that was over a hundred feet long. The 'Heaven Swallowing Python' swung its enormous body under the night sky. A pair of bewitching snake eyes stared at the 'Snow Demon Sky Ape' below. Even the sky began to fluctuate slightly as its snake's tongue extended and shrunk back.

"This little fellow's strength has once again soared greatly after sleeping for so long. It is indeed worthy of the name 'Heaven Swallowing.' If it were to reach its peak, it will likely really possess the strength to destroy the land and sky." Xiao Yan involuntarily exclaimed as he sensed the body of the 'Heaven Swallowing Python' which was even larger than the last time he saw it back at the Misty Cloud Sect.

"The 'Heaven Swallowing Python' is a kind of unique beast from ancient times. Under normal circumstances, it would require a hundred years if it wanted to reach this kind of stage. If not for the repeated erosion and merger by the spirit of Queen Medusa, this beast of yours would not be able to evolve this swiftly. Rather than saying that it is becoming stronger, you might as well say that it is taking advantage of Queen Medusa's strength." Yao Lao said faintly.

Xiao Yan nodded quietly. It was Queen Medusa once again. This woman was really a little too terrifying...

Xiao Yan let out a long sigh. He paused for over ten seconds before suddenly flapping the wings on his back. His body turned into a black shadow that shot explosively toward the mountain valley.

That 'Snow Demon Sky Ape' appeared to have sensed something when Xiao Yan moved. It immediately emitted a furious roar as its feet stomped on the ground. Its large body was like a cannonball as it shot toward Xiao

Yan to block him. A sharp ear-piercing sound rang out from the valley's entrance.

While the speed of the 'Snow Demon Sky Ape' was extremely fast, the 'Heaven Swallowing Python' was even faster. Before the former could reach Xiao Yan, it saw a seven-colored intense glow in front of it. An enormous tail that carried a rich seven-colored glow violently fell from the sky before finally heavily smashing into the body of the 'Snow Demon Sky Ape.' An enormous strength immediately erupted as it smashed the ape toward the mountain wall.

"Bang!"

A large piece of the hard mountain wall fell behind the 'Snow Demon Sky Ape.' As the enormous piece fell, numerous crack lines began to spread out behind it like spider web. Finally, these crack lines spread over half of the mountain wall.

"Roar!"

The 'Snow Demon Sky Ape' became furious when it received such a heavy blow. The bright redness rapidly increased within its eyes. It ignored the tiny thread of fear it felt for the 'Heaven Swallowing Python' within its heart as icy-cold energy ripples agglomerated on the surface of its body. Following the agglomeration of energy, the icy-cold energy even caused the air around it to freeze. It opened its large mouth and bared its fangs. Cold air agglomerated suddenly and instantly turned into an enormous icy-cold swirling ball that was at least five feet large.

As the 'Snow Demon Sky Ape' pounded its claws on its chest, the swirling ball that contained a frighteningly cold energy suddenly shot out. Its target was the 'Seven-Colored Heaven Swallowing Python' in the sky. As the ball moved, a long, white-colored trace was faintly left behind in the empty air.

The bewitching snake eyes of the 'Heaven Swallowing Python' in the sky watched the swirling ball that shot over explosively. A moment later, a strong seven-colored glow erupted. It was like a seven-colored dazzling sun in the night sky that collided heavily with the icy-cold swirling ball.

Immediately, an enormous energy explosion sounded within the mountain range like a thunderclap.

# Chapter 515: Searching For Treasure

With the help of the 'Heaven Swallowing Python' blocking the ape, Xiao Yan successfully rushed into the mountain valley. Hearing an explosion that sounded like thunder outside the mountain valley, his body also paused for a moment. He turned his head and eyed the outside of the mountain valley, only to see that the sky was nearly completely covered by a seven-colored glow. The enormous size of the 'Heaven Swallowing Python' was vaguely visible within the glow, emitting an extremely strong pressuring feeling. Under that pressure, another similarly strong snow-white cold air covered half the sky. The icy-cold gust even caused Xiao Yan, who was within the valley to involuntarily tremble.

"Relax. Although the 'Heaven Swallowing Python' may have some difficulty if it wants to kill the 'Snow Demon Sky Ape,' there should not be any problem if it just wants to delay it. Now, you should swiftly search for the 'Core Quenching Body Milk.'" Yao Lao appeared to clearly know of the worry in Xiao Yan's heart as he comforted him.

"Yes." Xiao Yan nodded. He did not continue to hesitate as he turned his head around and threw his gaze toward the dark-black valley. His brows were slightly knit together as he rubbed his finger gently. A couple of green-colored flames shot from his finger before finally spreading out in the surrounding mid-air, like numerous lanterns. The light from the flames scattered down and slowly expelled the darkness from the valley.

Xiao Yan discovered the size of the valley was actually quite big after borrowing the light from the flame. Trees grew all over the valley and rubble stood all around. However, it did not have any other living creatures. Clearly, they had been expelled by the 'Snow Demon Sky Ape.'

"The environment within the valley was a little complicated. It would likely take some time to find the 'Core Quenching Body Milk.'" Xiao Yan muttered. He flapped the Purple Cloud Wings on his back as his body floated through the air. Those tiny green-colored flames moved along with him, lingering around his body just like bodyguards.

Xiao Yan slowed his flying speed as he gradually rushed toward the interior of the deep mountain valley. The area along the way was silent and did not have the slightest sound. Borrowing the light from the fire, he was able to see exposed deep white bones. This seemingly death-like scene caused people's hair and bones to stand.

"Looks like humans are not the only ones who desire this 'Core Quenching Body Milk.' Even some Magical Beasts have the intention to snatch it." Xiao Yan involuntarily sighed as he softly spoke when he saw large bones that were obviously not human.

"The effect of washing and refining one's bones that the 'Core Quenching Body Milk' possesses has an attraction to Magical Beasts that far exceeds that of its attraction to humans. If a beast were to obtain this thing, it would make it much simpler to train into a human form in the future." Yao Lao explained faintly.

Xiao Yan nodded slightly. He suddenly recalled the Amethyst Winged Lion that he had met in the Magical Beast Mountain Range of the Jia Ma Empire back then. At that time, that fellow had suggested a 'Body Transformation Pill' as an exchange for the 'Violet Spirit Crystal' when Yun Yun wanted to exchange for the latter. Now, Xiao Yan was no longer the novice he was back then. On this road of an alchemist, he had already reached the stage of having gained a foothold in the path. Naturally, he had an even clearer understanding of the value of a 'Body Transformation Pill.' At the same time, he also understood just how difficult it was for a Magical Beast to escape its beast body.

Xiao Yan's flying speed suddenly paused when that name abruptly flashed across his mind. He pressed his lips tightly together as a beautiful and elegant face surfaced from deep within his memory. Those quiet water-like pupils still carried the majesty of being the leader of the strongest sect within the Jia Ma Empire.

"Yun Zhi... Yun Yun..." Xiao Yan softly muttered these two names that gave him two totally different feelings. However, he mocked himself as he used his strength to shake his head, tossing aside that feeling within his heart. Now, the both of them stood opposite one another due to various



different relationships. She was the sect leader of the Misty Cloud Sect and it was likely impossible that she would change for him. On the other hand, he had a grudge with the Misty Cloud Sect that could not be mediated. Given his character, he would similarly have hesitation throwing away her status when meeting her. Therefore, when he returned to the Jia Ma Empire in the future, they may... end up facing each other with weapons.

Xiao Yan gently rubbed his face and rubbed off the self ridicule on the corner of his mouth. His flying body suddenly paused. Not far in front of him was the end of the mountain valley. Using the light from the flame, he could see a dark mountain cave at the end.

“Here?” Xiao Yan muttered as he flapped his wings gently. Only then did his body fly downward. A moment later, his body agilely landed on a large rock near the mountain cave.

Xiao Yan gently sniffed the air that drifted out from the cave. There was a faint scent of wild beast that was similar to that on the body of the ‘Snow Demon Sky Ape.’

This should be the lair of the ‘Snow Demon Sky Ape.’ Since it views that ‘Core Quenching Body Milk’ with such importance, it likely lives quite close to it...” A thought flashed across Xiao Yan’s heart. With a wave of his hand, a wisp of green-colored flame that lingered around him immediately shot into the mountain cave. It randomly collided all over the place before Xiao Yan was sure that there were no traps and lifted his feet to enter.

The size of the mountain cave was quite big. Otherwise, it would have been difficult to accommodate the ‘Snow Demon Sky Ape,’ which lived in it. The top of the cave was at over at least ten meters tall. Rubble was spread all over the place within the mountain cave, and white fur could be seen everywhere. Xiao Yan’s footsteps were swift as he walked within the mountain cave. A moment later, he frowned slightly as he stood in front of the back cave wall. In a soft voice, he muttered, “Don’t tell me that the ‘Core Quenching Body Milk’ is not here?”

Xiao Yan frowned intently as his gaze swept all over. Immediately, his

gaze paused on the corner of a mountain wall. An extremely large chunk of the ground was sunk in at that spot. The sunken region was filled with white-colored fur and a larger number of huge footprints more than any other areas. Xiao Yan walked forward, squatted down, and carefully observed the place. He discovered that this appeared to be the resting place of the 'Snow Demon Sky Ape.' The sunken region appeared to be formed from the pressure of the latter's large body.

Xiao Yan did not discover any other strange places and involuntarily shook his head in disappointment. He was about to stand up when his heart moved. His sleeves gently flicked over a spot covered by a pile of white-colored fur. Immediately, a wind appeared, blowing all the white-colored fur away.

A layer of sand appeared under the fur as it was blown away. However, this color of this sand was much deeper when compared to the other places. Its manner was as though it had been turned over.

Xiao Yan narrowed his eyes and slowly took a step back. He curled his hand slightly and suddenly tightened his fist. A powerful suction force surged out. Following the surge of this suction force, the spread sand also shot out explosively. Finally, it agglomerated into a sand ball that was the size of a basketball in his hand.

Xiao Yan randomly threw aside the agglomerated sand ball. He sucked the sand away a couple more times in this manner. It was a while later before the sand was completely sucked away and a dark-black hole appeared on the ground in his sight.

It was obvious that this hole could be expanded. However, it was already sufficient for Xiao Yan's size. He immediately smiled and patted his hand before waving it. The green-colored flame suspended around him shot into it. When he drew his head over to take a look, the tunnel in the black hole was more spacious than he had expected. He let out a laugh before leaping into it. After which, he advanced swiftly along this twisting and turning large underground tunnel.

Xiao Yan was extremely cautious and summoned the green flames to

their limits as he was worried about some of the hidden dangers within the tunnel. A total of nearly twenty plus green-colored flames were scattered around him. They repeatedly flew in front of him, searching for any dangers.

The tunnel was extremely tortuous, but Xiao Yan could still feel that he was gradually moving deeper underground.

Xiao Yan walked for over ten minutes under this silent atmosphere. He suddenly realized that a little white glow had appeared at the edge of the dark-black tunnel. He immediately rejoiced within his heart. As he moved closer, the white glow gradually magnified until it finally turned into a cave entrance that was filled with a white light.

Xiao Yan inhaled a deep breath as he stood at the entrance to the tunnel before his leg stepped over.

As his feet stepped out of the dark tunnel, Xiao Yan suddenly felt the area in front of him brighten. His gaze began to look around after he got used to the light. A shock involuntarily surfaced on his face after he saw the surrounding environment.

The place which appeared in front of him was a world filled with stalactites. At a glance, the cream-colored stalactites unceasingly covered the area until the edge of his sight. A pale white-colored light was emitted from within, expelling all the darkness present. Stalactites grew everywhere. Some of them on the ceiling above were even as long as a hundred meters. At a glance, the mountain dome was completely covered with enormous stalactite. Occasionally, droplets of white-colored emulsions would drip down, forming flower-like splashes on the ground.

“What an underground world...” Xiao Yan slowly recovered a long while later. He smacked his lips in surprise before speaking with a bitter smile, “Is the ‘Core Quenching Body Milk’ here? How can we search for it? Uniform stalactites are everywhere.”

“Head to the place where the richest land strength is gathered.” Yao Lao’s body drifted out from the dark-black ring. His finger pointed to his left and said, “This way.” Once he said this, he took the lead to turn his

body and rushed in the direction that his finger was pointed at. Xiao Yan hurriedly followed behind.

The two of them shuttled through this stalactite world for nearly ten minutes before Yao Lao finally took the lead to stop his footsteps. He lifted his head to eye the incomparably enormous stalactite in front of him and he could not help but let out an exclamation despite his experience.

This stalactite in front of him came from the top of the mountain dome and hung vertically down. Its huge size was at least over a hundred meters long, and its diameter was at least that of two people hugging together. A pale white glow lingered on its body, rendering it just like a crystal pillar. This stalactite was undoubtedly the largest one in this underground world. This size was like the emperor among the stalactites, receiving the worship of the countless number of stalactites surrounding it.

Xiao Yan's gaze gradually shifted down. Below this stalactite was an extremely large green rock. Half of the green rock was buried in the ground. At this moment, there was a notch that was not even a foot wide at the top of the green rock. The notch was coincidentally facing the tip of the stalactite above. A two inch deep creamy-white liquid filled the notch. Floating on the creamy liquid was a faint drifting white fog. The white fog was quite strange. No matter how it drifted, it never scattered. Xiao Yan inhaled a breath of air, and the bones of his entire body felt a numb and strange feeling at this moment.

Xiao Yan's gaze stared intently at the creamy-white liquid in the notch. Xiao Yan's throat rolled involuntarily. An excitement surged on his face. In his heart, he clearly knew that the 'Core Quenching Body Milk,' which he had searched for a long time without success, had finally appeared in front of him.

# Chapter 516: Fake Core Quenching Body Milk

During the period of time that Xiao Yan was absent-minded, a faint white fog suddenly surged from the tip of the enormous stalactite. The glow from the tip of the stalactite gradually became more intense. As the glow surged, a drop of creamy liquid, that was like a spot of light, suddenly agglomerated and formed. This drop of liquid swayed at the tip of the stalactite. Finally, it left the stalactite and fell through the air before gently smashing into the notch at the top of the green rock.

The liquid from the stalactite came smashing down, causing the surface of the creamy white liquid, which was merely two inches deep to form a ripple. However, not a single drop of liquid splashed out...

Xiao Yan eyed the cream liquid that was fluctuating within the small dark-green bowl-like notch. He suddenly came to an understanding. This notch on the green rock was actually carved out by the dripping stalactites liquid. Xiao Yan's hand rubbed the green rock and felt its firmness before sighing once again. Just how much time was needed in order to carve such a notch into the green rock by just relying on the strength of the dripping water? This was really the case of water penetrating rock.

"If I remember correctly, this liquid seems to require around a year before it can a drop of it forms. I wonder just how many years it takes before this small hole can be filled." Yao Lao softly sighed at the side as he spoke. With his experience, he could not help but exhale emotionally at this moment.

Xiao Yan immediately came to a sudden understanding after hearing this. One year for a drop. It was really unexpected that the humble drop of liquid earlier had actually agglomerated a year's worth of pure energy. Nature was indeed incomparably mysterious.

"Teacher, this should be the 'Core Quenching Body Milk,' right?" Xiao Yan's eyes directly stared at the liquid in the notch as he laughed and asked a question.

“Yes.” Yao Lao carelessly glanced at the liquid that was emitting a strange white fog and nodded.

Xiao Yan no longer hesitated when he saw that even Yao Lao had nodded. He swiftly took out a jade bottle from his storage ring and poured the ‘Core Quenching Body Milk’ into it. When Yao Lao’s voice suddenly sounded by his side, however, it caused him to be stunned as he stopped the actions of his hand.

“These things may also be valuable, but it is not the main object. There is an even rarer unique treasure in this place.” Yao Lao placed both his hands behind him as he spoke with a smile.

“There is something even rarer?” Xiao Yan was stunned. His face was at a complete loss.

“If an ordinary person were to see the ‘Core Quenching Body Milk,’ it is likely that they would be just like you, thinking that this dripping thing is the essence. However, they do not know that they have discarded the greatest treasure.” Yao Lao said in a teasing manner.

Xiao Yan smiled in embarrassment without being able to refute his claim. He really thought that the cream-colored liquid within the notch was already the rarest thing, not thinking that there was another thing that was a greater treasure than this ‘Core Quenching Body Milk.’

“Follow me.” Yao Lao lifted his head and eyed the enormous stalactite that hung from the mountain dome. Suddenly, he waved his hand at Xiao Yan before his body immediately drifted slowly up to the enormous stalactite.

Xiao Yan was startled when he saw Yao Lao’s action. He hurriedly summoned the Purple Cloud Wings once again and carefully followed.

The two people followed the enormous vertical stalactite and flew up for a couple of hundred meters. A few minutes later, they actually flew to the top of the mountain dome. Looking down from this spot, the stalagmites down below, which appeared quite large earlier, were the size of mere ants at this moment. As their gazes moved in all directions, they were able to see some of the stalactites that hung on the mountain dome in all

directions. The pale glow brought light to the entire world.

Yao Lao ignored the surrounding stalactites. Instead, his floating body stopped at the end of this largest stalactite. At that spot, there was a faint fluorescent light seeping out from the stalactite, shining on the stalactite until it was like a transparent crystal, giving it an extremely beautiful appearance.

Xiao Yan also flapped his wings and came to this place. He saw Yao Lao's gaze and followed it. However, he did not discover any place where something was wrong. His mouth muttered a couple of times, but did not say anything.

"Do you have a piece of jade? Use a piece of jade to gently dig into this spot. Remember, do not use any great force. Otherwise, you will completely destroy this stalactite that can only be formed after ten thousand years." Yao Lao waved his finger at the empty space before the stalactite. A palm-sized circular trace appeared at the end of the stalactite. He observed this mark for awhile before turning his head toward Xiao Yan and spoke in a serious manner.

Although Xiao Yan's heart was filled with doubt after hearing this, he still nodded his head. He took out a green-colored jade piece from his storage ring and used Dou Qi to carefully wrap its surface. After which, he gently followed the circular mark that Yao Lao's finger had drew over the end of the stalactite and cut into it.

The jade piece became extremely sharp as it was wrapped by Dou Qi. After a mere gentle touch, the sharp edge of the jade piece was inserted into the interior of the crystal-like stalactite after emitting a very soft 'pu chi' sound.

Xiao Yan held the jade piece tightly with his hand, not daring to allow it to even tremble a little. The jade piece followed the mark that Yao Lao had drawn without any mistake as it slowly moved. A soft 'chi chi' sound repeatedly reverberated in the quite high area.

"Crack..."

The jade piece in his hand completely parted the distance of one circle.

Suddenly, a circular fragment of the stalactite fell down from its original body. Xiao Yan's eyes and hands were quick as he grabbed it. When he lifted his head to take a look, a powerful and sudden light shot out from the fragment. The piercing glow caused him to hurriedly shut his eyes. The wings on his back swiftly flapped as a reflex action as his body withdrew for dozens of meters before coming to a stop.

"Ke ke, everything's fine. There is no need to worry." Yao Lao's laugh sounded by his side when Xiao Yan opened his eyes. Only then did his tense heart relaxed. He lifted his head to eye the spot where the intense light shot out before knitting his brows together and flying closer once again.

As he came closer to this large stalactite, Xiao Yan's gaze eyed the circular hole he had cut, only to be shocked to discover that there was actually a cluster of emerald-colored sticky liquid suspended within the stalactite. This cluster of liquid appeared as though it had some intelligence. The liquid flowed slowly within the stalactite but the region which it flowed in was coincidentally only within the area where the circular opening was. It ultimately did not even exceed where the line was or spill out.

Although Xiao Yan was not exactly certain what this emerald-like viscous liquid was, the pure energy that it contained caused Xiao Yan to be shocked. This kind of pure energy was at least ten times richer than that of the 'Core Quenching Body Milk.'

"What is this?" Xiao Yan swallowed his saliva while feeling a dryness in his throat. His eyes were boiling hot as he eyed the cluster of emerald-colored sticky liquid while opening his mouth to inquire.

"This is the true 'Core Quenching Body Milk.'" Yao Lao smiled and slowly spoke when he saw the shocked manner of Xiao Yan.

"The liquid below is not?" Xiao Yan was startled as he asked in disbelief.

"The liquid below is also the 'Core Quenching Body Milk'...However, those are things that have flowed out from this original body. They are similar to a diluted 'Core Quenching Body Milk'. There are some people in



the continent who know about the matter of the 'Core Quenching Body Milk,' but there are very few people who know that the true 'Core Quenching Body Milk' is hidden at the point where the stalactite contacts the earth." Yao Lao pointed at the green rock below and smiled as he explained, "This is perhaps also a kind of camouflage that the natural spirit object used to protect itself. An ordinary person would likely act just like you did just now when they found it. They would take away the 'Core Quenching Body Milk' below but end up leaving behind the true treasure."

Xiao Yan involuntarily quietly smacked his mouth when he heard Yao Lao's explanation. It was really unexpected that there were two different types a real one and a fake one when it came to this 'Core Quenching Body Milk.' There was really all sorts of strange things in this vast world.

"This true 'Core Quenching Body Milk' is extremely weak. Only the gentlest jade tools will not damage it. If a metal tool or other objects were used, this cluster of 'Core Quenching Body Milk' which has been agglomerating for an unknown number of years might immediately transform into a completely useless waste of liquid with just a single touch of those kind of tools." Yao Lao reminded seriously.

Xiao Yan stammered as he nodded. He rubbed the cold sweat on his forehead while quietly rejoicing. It was fortunate that he had the encyclopedia-like Yao Lao following by his side. Otherwise, if he were to rely on himself, forget about the issue of finding the true 'Core Quenching Body Milk,' even if he did luckily find it, it was likely that he would end up empty-handed because of his recklessness.

"What should we do now?" Xiao Yan eyed the viscous emerald liquid slowly flowing within the stalactite. He did not dare perform any actions by himself, and could only ask while facing Yao Lao.

"Use jade tools to get it out. Remember. Do not use your hand to touch it." Yao Lao said.

Xiao Yan hurriedly nodded when he heard this. He flipped and churned the interior of his storage ring for a long while before finally finding a jade spoon. As an alchemist, jade was the best container to store pills.

Therefore, there were all sorts of jade utensils placed within his storage ring.

Xiao Yan carefully inserted the spoon into the stalactite. He agilely turned his wrist. After a couple of insertions and withdrawals, a large half of the 'Core Quenching Body Milk' was scooped up. Just as he was preparing to take away all of the emerald liquid, however, Yao Lao suddenly said, "Always leave something behind. This is an unwritten rule within the alchemist world. One cannot break the root when one finds a natural treasure. It is extremely difficult for this 'Core Quenching Body Milk' to be formed. If you were to take all of it away, it is likely that this stalactite, which took over ten thousand years to form, will gradually crack. Therefore, leave a little to keep it alive."

Xiao Yan was slightly startled. He was somewhat ashamed as he nodded. Back then, when he was obtaining the 'Green Lotus Core Flame,' Yao Lao had also said this. His own actions were indeed a little too greedy.

Xiao Yan pulled out his jade spoon after leaving a little 'Core Quenching Body Milk' behind. After which, he once again inserted the fragment of the stalactite in his hand back to where it came from. Immediately, the intense light gradually diminished and the stalactite once again returned to its calm manner earlier.

Xiao Yan poured the emerald liquid in the jade spoon into a jade bottle of extremely good quality that he had already prepared. When he saw that the liquid was still flowing automatically as though it was a living being, Xiao Yan finally heaved a long sigh of relief. After much hard work, this thing was finally in his hands.

# Chapter 517: Reappearance of Queen Medusa

Xiao Yan flew down from the top of the mountain dome, and once again found himself beside the green rock. His gaze eyed the creamy-white liquid within the notch. Although this had already been diluted, its effect was still quite good. Even if it could not achieve the effect of washing and refining the bones, it also had quite a great refining effect on the body.

“You can also collect some of this. Perhaps, you might be able to use it when you refine pills in the future.” Yao Lao’s voice sounded above Xiao Yan’s head.

Xiao Yan nodded when he heard this. He took out two jade bottles from within his storage ring and carefully filled them with the cream-colored ‘Core Quenching Body Milk.’ After filling the two jade bottles, there was nearly less than half of the cream liquid remaining in the notch.

Xiao Yan glanced at the remaining liquid. He mused for a while, but did not completely take it all away. Lin Xiu Ya and the others might well come and take this ‘Core Quenching Body Milk’ in the future. If they returned empty-handed after toiling for half a day, they would undoubtedly have some doubts about someone else taking the thing away. Moreover, only the few of them and himself knew that there was a unique treasure in this place. Although Xiao Yan was not afraid of their suspicions, this ‘Core Quenching Body Milk’ was ultimately something that Han Yue had discovered no matter how one put it. Xiao Yan had gained a great bargain for no reason. It would indeed be somewhat overboard for him to be greedy and take everything away.

Xiao Yan stored the two bottles of diluted ‘Core Quenching Body Milk’ into his storage ring as these thoughts circulated in his heart. After which, he no longer paused as he turned his body and swiftly flew along the path which he had taken. Since he had already familiarized himself with the path before, Xiao Yan had reduced quite a lot of time when he exited this time around. In merely less than twenty minutes, he exited the mountain

cave.

With a flap of his wings, Xiao Yan flew toward the exit of the valley. His gaze eyed the area a distance away. He was still able to see the vaguely visible seven-colored glow and the thunder-like energy explosions within the dark night.

Xiao Yan only sighed in relief when he saw that the seven-colored glow was still bright. He swiftly flapped his wings and his body transformed into a black shadow which shuttled through the dark night without any noise. Some time later, his body paused as it appeared in the air above the mountain valley. His gaze glanced at the battleground outside, and he could not help but be a little speechless.

At this moment, the entrance to the valley had been damaged until it appeared completely different. The originally flat ground was covered by enormous craters while enormous rocks that fell from the mountain wall were spread all over the place. The forest on both sides were also wrecked; trees laid horizontally and even covered half of the path into the valley.

The 'Heaven Swallowing Python' was still curled up as it lingered in the air within this battleground. Seven-colored glows surged out of its body unceasingly. The powerful suppression caused all the Magical Beasts hidden in a five kilometer radius to shiver. Although the Qi of the 'Heaven Swallowing Python' was still powerful, one was still able to see some deep claw scars on the seven-colored snake's scales if one were to look carefully. Clearly, the former was not in an undefeatable position in its fight with the 'Snow Demon Sky Ape.'

Xiao Yan's gaze drifted down. When he eyed the 'Snow Demon Sky Ape' on the ground, a stunned look involuntarily flashed across Xiao Yan's face. At this moment, over half of the snow white fur on the beast was corroded by the snake's saliva with its strong acidic properties. Fresh blood flowed on its enormous head, causing the originally terrible looking head to appear even more savage. Scars from being struck by powerful energy could be seen everywhere on its body. Some fear and weariness appeared within those originally large, lantern-like bright-red eyes. Clearly, the 'Snow Demon Sky Ape,' which was already in a weakened state, had

already completely lost its fighting spirit when faced with a strong opponent like the 'Heaven Swallowing Python'.

Compared to the miserable appearance of the 'Snow Demon Sky Ape,' the little injuries on the 'Heaven Swallowing Python' appeared to be insignificant.

"It is really unexpected that this little fellow is actually this strong. It is really worthy of being a unique beast from ancient times." Xiao Yan eyed the difference in the injuries of both parties and involuntarily muttered in surprise within his heart.

Xiao Yan's appearance similarly attracted the attention of both the 'Heaven Swallowing Python' and the 'Snow Demon Sky Ape.' The former extended its snake's tongue somewhat excitedly at Xiao Yan. On the other hand, the latter emitted a furious roar somewhat restlessly.

"Little fellow, go!" Xiao Yan ignored the 'Snow Demon Sky Ape' which was roaring while facing the sky. He cried out to the 'Heaven Swallowing Python' before immediately flapping his wings. His body flew swiftly in the direction of the deep mountains.

The 'Heaven Swallowing Python' hesitated a little behind him before swinging its enormous tail. The seven-colored glow which intensified around its body swiftly shrunk. After which, it transformed into a tiny light shadow that swiftly rushed toward Xiao Yan. Finally, the two figures gradually disappeared in the black night, leaving behind the furious but helpless 'Snow Demon Sky Ape' who was in a frenzied state.

A large and small figure suddenly descended from the sky within the dark night. Finally, they landed on a mountain peak. Xiao Yan turned around and eyed the mountain valley which had already disappeared from the edge of his sight. Only then did he sigh in relief.

Xiao Yan turned his head over and eyed the 'Heaven Swallowing Python' suspended in front of him. At this moment, the glow of the seven-colored scales had quietly become dimmer. From the looks of it, its exhaustion from the intense fight with the 'Snow Demon Sky Ape' earlier was very great. Xiao Yan's hand gently rubbed the small head of the 'Heaven

Swallowing Python.’ He took out a bottle of ‘Amethyst Essence’ from his storage ring and smiled as he said, “Come, little fellow. You have done well tonight. This time around, I will let you eat until you are full.

If it was in the past, it was likely that the ‘Heaven Swallowing Python’ would immediately pounce over when it saw Xiao Yan take out the ‘Amethyst Essence.’ However, the ‘Heaven Swallowing Python’ strangely stopped in air without moving. A pair of bewitching snake eyes glanced at Xiao Yan. Just as a feeling of something being wrong appeared in Xiao Yan’s heart, an icy-cold voice was suddenly emitted from the mouth of the ‘Heaven Swallowing Python,’ “You are actually really treating me as a pet to rear?” The voice may have been ice-cold, but it contained a numb feeling that caused a nefarious flame to rise in Xiao Yan’s heart.

Just as the nefarious flame rose within Xiao Yan’s lower abdomen, he suddenly felt a coldness seeping out from his heart. His eyes suddenly stared at the ‘Heaven Swallowing Python’ in front of him, and he was stunned for an instant. His body hurriedly withdrew in a lightning-like matter as he uttered in shock, “Queen Medusa?”

During the time that Xiao Yan was rushing back, the ‘Heaven Swallowing Python’ once again emitted a faint seven-colored glow. Its body also gradually moved. An instant later, it transformed into an enchanting and alluring being that could basically cause a man to instantly turn into a beast.

Although Xiao Yan clearly knew in his heart that this was a beautiful human snake that could eat people in front of him, he was still unable to help but feel a little distracted. However, this distracted feeling immediately disappeared when a pair of cold ice-like pupils glanced over, leaving behind only his guard and caution.

Xiao Yan’s gaze finally stopped on the ice-cold bewitching face, which one could not find any flaws. He laughed dryly, only to realize that his voice had turned somewhat hoarse.

“Your Majesty, what a coincidence. We meet again.” The extremely stupid greeting was sufficient to show just what degree of anxiety Xiao

Yan felt within his heart. The fear he had for this woman in front of him was even stronger than what he felt for Yun Shan from the Misty Cloud Sect.

“What a coincidence. However, I must thank you for that. If you did not let the ‘Heaven Swallowing Python’ fight with ‘Snow Demon Sky Ape’ and exhaust a great amount of energy in the process, I would still be suppressed by it.” Queen Medusa glanced at Xiao Yan. The corner of her sleek, red mouth was lifted into a mocking manner.

Xiao Yan parted his mouth and could not resist thinking of giving himself a slap. It was unexpected that the culprit was himself...

“Have you gathered all the medicinal ingredients to refine the ‘Thawing Spirit Pill?’” Queen Medusa ignored Xiao Yan’s ugly expression as she asked in an indifferent manner.

The corner of Xiao Yan’s eyes twitched as he laughed bitterly in his heart. What gather them all? He had never put this matter in his heart. Just settling his own things had already made him terribly busy. Where did he get the time to help her search for the medicinal ingredients for the ‘Thawing Spirit Pill?’ Moreover, even if he did have the time, he would definitely delay it as long as he can. Otherwise, once this woman obtained the ‘Thawing Spirit Pill’ and merged her spirit with that of the ‘Heaven Swallowing Python,’ the first person to be unlucky was likely himself. This damn woman had never hidden her killing intent for him from the start.

However, he did understand her after thinking a little. With Queen Medusa’s noble identity and her haughty character, how would she be able to endure being turned into a pet and fighter that Xiao Yan was currently rearing? If it were not because of the ‘Thawing Spirit Pill’ and the repeated rebound of the spirit of the ‘Heaven Swallowing Python,’ it was likely that she would have long since used a few slaps to tear Xiao Yan apart.

A cold smile and killing intent gradually surfaced on Queen Medusa’s face when she saw Xiao Yan’s silent and speechless manner. “Looks like you did not put this matter in your heart. Since this is the case, what is the use of leaving you around?”

Queen Medusa suddenly waved her delicate hand when she said this. Following the waving of her hand, Xiao Yan was shocked to realize that the surrounding space had solidified at this moment. His body was locked within it, and he was unable to move.

“Is this the true strength of an elite Dou Zong? They can actually solidify space by just raising their hands?” Shock flashed across Xiao Yan’s heart. His knowledge of the strength of an elite Dou Zong became much deeper.

Queen Medusa coldly eyed Xiao Yan as he struggled with all his strength. She moved her feet, one after the other, and slowly walked toward Xiao Yan. She lifted her hand vertically and a faint seven-colored glow gathered on her palm. Finally, it agglomerated into a sharp seven-colored longsword.

Xiao Yan used all his strength to struggle, but the surrounding space did not move even a little. Just as he was about to helplessly give up, a familiar, powerful Spiritual ripple finally swarmed out from the black-colored ring on his hand. Under the undulation of this Spiritual ripple, the surrounding cage-like solidified space suddenly shattered. Xiao Yan’s body obtained freedom at this moment.

“Ke ke, being able to solidify space after just advancing to the Dou Zong class. You are really worthy of being Queen Medusa. However, who are you to just kill the disciple of Yao Chen just because you want to?” An old laugh slowly sounded. Yao Lao’s illusionary body rose out from the dark-black ring. Finally, he was suspended beside Xiao Yan as he indifferently watched Queen Medusa on the opposite side.



# Chapter 518: Agreement

Queen Medusa coldly watched Yao Lao appear. However, there was not the slightest surprise on her bewitching face. Instead, she said with a cold smile, "I have long since sensed that this fellow had a strong person hidden by his side. So, it was actually a spiritual body."

Although she spoke in this manner with her mouth, her advancing footsteps were slowly withdrawn. This old man with an illusionary body in front of her gave her a faint oppressive feeling. This feeling was not weaker than the one Yun Shan gave back then. If she was at her peak condition, she would not fear him. At this moment, however, she needed to constantly separate some Spiritual Strength to suppress the spirit of the 'Heaven Swallowing Python' in this body. With this split focus, her strength was somewhat reduced.

Yao Lao smiled indifferently. He waved his hand and got Xiao Yan to step back a little. Only then did he smile and continue, "I am also clear about your current condition. Therefore, there is no need to show such a stern murderous aura in front of me. Although I am currently only in my spiritual state with a significant loss to my strength, it is likely that you will not gain any advantage if we were to really fight."

"Is that so?" Queen Medusa let out a cold laugh. However, she did not display any other motion with her hands. Clearly, the appearance of Yao Lao had given her a great shock.

"I, too, don't wish to have any conflict with you. It is just that it is not your right to randomly kill my disciple. If you feel that staying here displeases you, you can leave. No one will stop you." Yao Lao smiled as spoke. His calm words similarly held a sharp edge. Back then, when he roamed the continent, forget about a Dou Zong, even an elite Dou Zun would have to be polite to him. This Queen Medusa may cause other people to fear her, but she did not pose the slightest threat to him.

Queen Medusa frowned slightly when she heard this. Currently, the 'Heaven Swallowing Python' had the indication of recognizing Xiao Yan as

its master. Moreover, she had not completely obtained control of this body. It was not up to her to decide whether to leave or not. Additionally, that medicinal formula for the 'Thawing Spirit Pill' was currently in Xiao Yan's hand. She still needed to rely on his strength if she wanted that kind of medicinal pill to be refined. Therefore, why would she leave?

"I have an agreement with him. If I protect him such that he could safely escape from Yun Shan's hands, he will refine the 'Thawing Spirit Pill' for me. Now, however, he has already completely forgotten about that matter after nearly one year. What use is there to keep such a person, one does not keep his promise, around?" Queen Medusa coldly glanced at Xiao Yan as she spoke.

The anxiety in Xiao Yan's heart had been greatly reduced now that Yao Lao had shown himself. Hence, he merely helplessly spread his hands when he saw Queen Medusa's ice-cold gaze. Big sister, did you really think that I am a fool? Was it not the case of the earlier I refine the 'Thawing Spirit Pill,' the faster I die?

"Ke ke, if you did not have any killing intent in your heart, this disciple of mine would be extremely happy to help you search for medicinal ingredients. You cannot completely blame him for dragging things out in this manner." Yao Lao smiled as he spoke. He naturally clearly knew about the matter from the beginning until the end.

Queen Medusa snorted. She did not refute what Yao Lao said. Back then, she did have the thought of killing Xiao Yan with one slap once Xiao Yan refined the 'Thawing Spirit Pill.'

"Ke ke, Queen Medusa. I shall not waste my breath with you. Do you really want to obtain that 'Thawing Spirit Pill?'" Yao Lao mused for a moment before he suddenly spoke after seeing the flickering eyes of Queen Medusa.

"Isn't this question of yours a little redundant?"

"Since this is the case, we can each give the other party what we need. However, the precondition is that you must throw away those thoughts in your heart. No one can be blamed for the matter of the 'Heaven

Swallowing Python' following by Xiao Yan's side. Moreover, even if it did recognize Xiao Yan as its master, it has nothing to do with you. No outsiders can do anything to change it." Yao Lao smiled and continued, "If you can throw aside the killing intent in your heart, I can guarantee you that I will place a completely refined 'Thawing Spirit Pill' in front of you within one year. However, in exchange, you must protect my disciple such that his life will not be in danger for one year after you have obtained the medicinal pill. What do you say?"

"He and I already have a prior agreement before this. Back then, I protected him such that he escaped from Yun Shan's hand. Otherwise, do you think he could even think of challenging Yun Shan with his strength? Since I have already completed my agreement, he should help me refine the 'Thawing Spirit Pill.' Why should I come into another agreement with you?" Queen Medusa's voice faintly contained a thread of anger.

"Both parties violated that agreement back then. Naturally, it is invalid." Yao Lao said faintly.

"You want to get me to be a guard for him for a year? Forget it!" Queen Medusa's cold voice did not hesitate as she opened her mouth and rejected the suggestion.

"Since this is the case, you can go and find someone else to refine the 'Thawing Spirit Pill.'" Yao Lao rolled his eyes as he replied.

"In that case, give the medicinal formula for the 'Thawing Spirit Pill' to me!" Queen Medusa clenched her silver teeth as she coldly spoke.

"Ke ke, that won't do. This 'Thawing Spirit Pill' is something that Xiao Yan obtained after spending great effort to win the Alchemist Grand Meeting. How can he give it to you?" Yao Lao smiled and shook his head.

Xiao Yan was a little stunned as he eyed Yao Lao in front of him from behind. Currently, the latter had a little aura of a thug.

Queen Medusa inhaled a deep breath of air as her expression gradually became gloomy. Originally, she was someone who did not like to waste her breath. If it was not because she was afraid of Yao Lao's strength, it was likely that she would have attacked and killed him. However, the

stubbornness of the current Yao Lao caused a killing intent to once again surge in her heart.

As Queen Medusa's expression became gloomy, a majestic Qi that shocked Xiao Yan slowly surged out from her body. Under this powerful force, the surrounding air basically ceased flowing at this moment.

Turning everything silent. This was the overbearingness and great strength of an elite Dou Zong.

However, Yao Lao's body did not make the slightest movement under the suppression of this majestic force. Only a cold sharp look gradually swarmed onto his indifferent old face. An invisible Spiritual Strength extended out and densely covered half of the sky. Although Yao Lao was unable to use Dou Qi in his spiritual form, his spirit was unusually powerful due to him being an alchemist. On top of this, he had the assistance of the 'Bone Chilling Flame.' He had even reached the state where he could just rely on his Spiritual Strength to fight with other people. Of course, he would naturally be unable to reach the level at his peak by just using Spiritual Strength. However, it would not be too much of a problem when it was used to fight with Queen Medusa, who was similarly not in her peak condition.

Two similarly powerful forces gradually surged on the top of this mountain. The ground shook a little between the suppression of these two forces, and it actually began to gradually form some crack lines under Xiao Yan shocked gaze.

Following the flow of time, the two forces grew increasingly strong. However, the instant Queen Medusa could no longer resist attacking, her face suddenly changed. The tense atmosphere also fell apart at this moment. Her delicate hand held her forehead as her expression changed swiftly. A seven-colored glow was repeatedly surging out from within her body.

"Dammit!" Queen Medusa clenched her teeth with all her strength as she viciously scolded. The 'Heaven Swallowing Python' had actually come out to snatch control of the body at such a time. Moreover, this time

around, it actually resisted so intensely, causing her to have no choice but to hurriedly agglomerate her strength to suppress it. However, in this way, how would she be able to fight Yao Lao.

Xiao Yan appeared to have understood something when he saw this condition of Queen Medusa. He immediately sighed in relief within his heart. This woman's strength was a little overly frightening. Even if Yao Lao was able to defeat her, it was likely that he would descend into a slumber due to over-exhaustion of his Spiritual Strength. Although Xiao Yan currently did not rely on Yao Lao as much as he did in the past, Yao Lao's rich experience would enable him to save himself from a lot of trouble no matter how one put it.

The seven-colored glow grew increasingly intense. In the end, even Queen Medusa's bewitching eyes became slightly at a loss.

Queen Medusa inhaled a deep breath of air and did her best to suppress the rebound of the 'Heaven Swallowing Python.' She coldly eyed Yao Lao on the opposite side and unwillingly said, "Alright, we will do as you say. If you are able to give me the 'Thawing Spirit Pill' within one year, I will protect him for one year. If you make empty promises with me once again, this Queen will let you all suffer heavy losses even if I risk the retaliation of the 'Heaven Swallowing Python.'"

"Ke ke, it is naturally for the best like this. I will definitely hand over the 'Thawing Spirit Pill' within one year. However, the old me hopes that Queen Medusa would not be like you are the last time where you have killing intent in your heart. Otherwise, I will turn the body that you have great difficulty evolving into into ashes even if I risk falling into a slumber!" Yao Lao laughed softly. His laughter did indeed contain an extremely rich threat. After his words sounded, a dense, white-colored flame surged explosively from his body and immediately wrapped around it in order to increase his might.

The dense white-colored flame rose slowly. Although the flame was rising strongly, it ultimately gave a person a kind of strange icy-cold feeling when one looked at it.

“Heavenly Flame?” Queen Medusa’s face changed a little when she saw that dense white-colored flame. Her gaze changed quite a lot. Having once suffered under the ‘Green Lotus Core Flame,’ she naturally clearly knew just how frightening this kind of flame was. Although this dense white-colored flame in front of her did not have the heat of the ‘Green Lotus Core Flame’ on its surface, the kind of strange visual feeling from it caused Queen Medusa to be afraid of underestimating it.

“As long as the both of you don’t break your promises once again, this Queen will naturally keep her promise. I hope that I will be able to see a true ‘Thawing Spirit Pill’ the next time that I wake up.” Queen Medusa responded indifferently. The seven-colored glow within her body suddenly erupted. Her body once again moved. A moment later, the bewitching, enchanting, all-around stunning creature once again transformed back into that small seven-colored snake that was merely over a foot long.

The ‘Heaven Swallowing Python’ which had transformed back into its snake’s form shook its tail a little. Its body appeared by Xiao Yan’s side as fast as lightning. It extended and withdrew its snake’s tongue at the latter. There appeared to be some human-like concern within those bewitching snake eyes.

“Ke ke, I am fine.” Xiao Yan rubbed the ‘Heaven Swallowing Python’ in a tender manner as he spoke with a bitter smile, “Little fellow, it’s all thanks to you. Otherwise, I’m afraid that a hard battle would have been unavoidable.”

“However, we have at least said all that needs to be said. In the future, we will no longer need to worry about whether she will suddenly come and kill me. Queen Medusa may be cold and heartless, but she is extremely proud. It is unlikely that she will go back against her words.” Yao Lao turned around and smiled as he spoke to Xiao Yan.

“Hopefully that will be the case.” Xiao Yan nodded slightly. He flicked his hand and took out the bottle of true ‘Core Quenching Body Milk’ once more. He softly said, “Whether I am able to breakthrough to the Dou Ling class in one go is really up to this thing...”

# Chapter 519: Mixing Medicinal Liquid

Xiao Yan eyed a large wooden basin that was placed in front of him within a spacious and bright mountain cave. The wooden basin was filled with a transparent and clean water that allowed one to see its base. By the side of the wooden basin was a simple wooden shelf. Various kinds of medicinal ingredients were placed on it. At a glance, there was likely over ten different kinds of medicinal ingredients. Xiao Yan had spent a total of nearly three days in order to search for these medicinal ingredients.

“Hand the ‘Core Quenching Body Milk’ to me.” Yao Lao extended his hand toward Xiao Yan and commanded him after he had checked that all the necessary medicinal ingredients had been gathered.

Xiao Yan hurriedly placed the thing into Yao Lao’s hands when he heard this. The latter held that jade bottle which was completely filled with ‘Core Quenching Body Milk.’ He weighed it a little before opening the cap. A faint emerald fog drifted out immediately, before finally gathering around the opening of the bottle. It did not disappear for a long time.

Yao Lao inhaled a deep breath of this fog, only to sense a faint warm stream flowing into his spirit. He involuntarily praised, “It is indeed worthy of being a spiritual object that has gathered the strength of the land. It is actually this rich and pure. No wonder it possesses such a unique effect of washing and refining one’s bones.”

Yao Lao tilted the jade bottle slightly after letting out a praise. He carefully poured ten drops of the emerald-like liquid into the wooden basin. After these ten drops of emerald liquid left the bottle, the liquid in the bottle was reduced by nearly a quarter.

Following the ten drops of ‘Core Quenching Body Milk’ being dropped in, the clear water in the wooden basin immediately began to turn into a rich emerald-green color at a speed visible to the naked eye. Moreover, there was a faint fog that gradually seeped out from the surface of the water. This fog strangely did not disappear for a long time.

Xiao Yan curiously eyed the change of the liquid within the basin. He

rubbed his head and asked in a surprised manner, “Don’t tell me that I will also need to train in here this time around?”

“Yes.” Yao Lao used his entire focus to eye the change in the color of the liquid. He carelessly said, “The energy of the ‘Core Quenching Body Milk’ is far too great. It is impossible for you to directly consume it orally with just your current strength. Hence, you can only adopt this method. Moreover, even this manner of using it must be used in conjunction with other medicinal plants in order to be able to gain the effect of washing and refining your bones. If you were to forcefully do this, forget about washing your bones, it is likely that your little life would be directly washed away first.”

Xiao Yan smiled awkwardly. His body was not that weak, no?

“Hand over the ‘Incense Grass.’” Yao Lao ignored Xiao Yan’s quiet muttering. Under his observation, the color of the liquid turned extremely rich. After which, he faintly ordered Xiao Yan to do something.

Xiao Yan swiftly extended his hand to the wooden shelf after hearing this. He picked up a small incense-like red-colored grass before handing it over to Yao Lao.

Yao Lao waved his hand while holding this ‘Incense Grass.’ A cluster of thick white-colored flames formed in his palm. The thick white flames curled and rose up, much like a cluster of icy flames.

Yao Lao threw this grass into the flames. In merely an instant, the ‘Incense Grass’ swiftly wilted. Finally, it turned into a drop of red-colored liquid that was boiled by the ‘Bone Chilling Flame.’

Yao Lao used the ‘Bone Chilling Flame’ to refine the red-colored liquid a couple of times. He flicked his finger and the red-colored liquid fell into the wooden basin.

Following the entrance of this drop of red-colored liquid, the originally emerald-colored water’s surface suddenly become a dash of dark-red.

“Green Lotus Fruit.” Yao Lao once again opened his mouth and commanded indifferently. Xiao Yan hurriedly searched for this fruit-like



medicinal ingredient from the wooden shelf.

After a couple of minutes of refinement, that 'Green Lotus Fruit' had also turned into a drop of green liquid that fell into the wooden basin, causing an additional pale-green color to appear within the liquid.

"Snake Shedding Flower."

"Buddha Flame Root."

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The names of different medicinal ingredients were repeatedly emitted from Yao Lao's mouth one after another. As his voice was emitted, the medicinal ingredients on the wooden shelf were swiftly being reduced. An hour later, dozens of different medicinal ingredients had been completely turned into various liquids of different colors that were then thrown into the wooden basin.

Yao Lao sighed in relief after refining the final medicinal ingredient. His eyes looked at the wooden basin. He nodded in satisfaction after seeing the gorgeous multicolored liquid surface within. Facing Xiao Yan beside him, Yao Lao said, "Go and take your clothes off. Enter into it and train until the color of the liquid once again turns into that of clear water."

Xiao Yan's face was astonished as he eyed the multicolored liquid that emerged from the dozens of medicinal ingredients' pure essences. This kind of technique had no relation to one's talent. It completely required the accumulation of experience as well as the understanding of various kinds of medicinal ingredients in order for one to achieve it.

"Be a little careful after you enter it. Although the effect of this 'Core Quenching Body Milk' has become much gentler after being neutralized by these medicinal ingredients, the energy contained within it has increased instead of decreased. Therefore, you might feel some pain while you are training. You will gain a great amount of benefits if you endure." Yao Lao clapped his hands and spoke with a smile.

Xiao Yan nodded. He swiftly removed the clothes on his body before stepping into the wooden basin in a manner that suggested he could not

wait any longer.

As his body broke the multicolored liquid surface, he immediately gave a violent shiver. The temperature of this water was so cold that it was frightening. If he did not use Dou Qi to protect his body, his skin would feel waves of piercing pain from the coldness.

“Do not release your Dou Qi to wrap your body. That will hinder the medicinal strength from entering it. This water is this ice-cold because of my ‘Bone Chilling Flame.’ It does not pose any harm to you.” Yao Lao’s voice suddenly sounded just as Xiao Yan could not resist it any longer and wanted to use his Dou Qi to resist the cold.

Xiao Yan could only helplessly nod his head when he heard this. He was able to clearly feel the enormous energy that was contained within the multicolored liquid as his body soaked within it. Before he had even entered his training state, the energy that had filled the water began to uncontrollably enter his body, causing Xiao Yan to feel an itchy feeling all over it. This was similar to ants clawing his skin.

Xiao Yan violently swung his head. He suppressed the discomfort he felt on his body. He had suffered quite a lot of hardship during these few years. Hence, this tingling feeling did not pose much of a hindrance to him. Xiao Yan sat within the wooden basin. His hands formed the training seals as he gradually shut his eyes. His breathing suddenly became calm and long. A long while later, the itchy feeling on his body slowly became fainter before disappearing. Xiao Yan had entered into his training state.

Yao Lao eyed Xiao Yan, who had entered the training state, from the side of the wooden basin. He smiled and nodded as he softly said, “Although there is an extremely great benefit from washing and refining your bones, there is also quite a bit of suffering during this process. Your path ahead will be flat if you endure through it. If you fail to endure through it, not only will all your effort be wasted, but the Qi Paths in your body might also show some signs of injuries due to the assault by the enormous energy. In the end, you may end up in a situation where you lose more than you gain. Although there are some risks, if you do not take the risk and possess a fearless heart in your training journey, how will you be able to walk far?”

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As Xiao Yan entered his training condition, the multi colored water in wooden basin was suddenly filled with tiny bubbles. A moment later, the surging of the bubbles became increasingly intense. That manner was as though Xiao Yan's body was in boiling water. However, this boiling water caused Xiao Yan to feel incomparably icy-cold.

The instant when the bubbles surged, Xiao Yan's body stilled suddenly. He was clearly able to sense that the unmeasurable amount of pure energy within this liquid appeared to have received a suction force as it followed the slightly opened pores on Xiao Yan's body. It forcefully poured into his body!

Xiao Yan felt that his skin had become painfully swollen as the energy that surged in was far too large. However, this pure energy that swarmed in did not come to a stop just because of how he felt. Instead, it began pouring into his body at an even more ferocious speed. As it transversed into his body, numerous scurry traces were plucking up randomly under his skin. That appearance was as though many small snakes were hidden under his skin, appearing extremely frightening.

Xiao Yan naturally could not sense his savage, frightening outer appearance. He could currently only use all his strength to circulate his mind and observe the movement within his body.

The multicolored gorgeous energy that swarmed into Xiao Yan's body did not obey any of Xiao Yan's order. Instead, it charged into all the bones in Xiao Yan's body in a manner that caused it to seem like it had a specific target. Any bone that it came into contact with would instantly turn multicolored. Under this multicolor, Xiao Yan was able to vaguely sense that there was something entering his bones and doping them.

Xiao Yan did not have any means to stop the actions of this energy. Therefore, Xiao Yan did not have any other choice other than to simply watch an increasing amount of his bones turn multicolored.

In less than ten minutes, the bones in Xiao Yan's body were nearly completely covered by that multicolored energy. At a glance, every part

was filled with different colors, appearing extremely bizarre.

Xiao Yan's heart suddenly shook violently as he felt some uncertainty at the actions of these energy. He could sense that his bones appeared to have suddenly been incinerated. A deep searing pain swiftly seeped out from his bones. Finally, the pain spread to every corner of his body.

Xiao Yan clenched his teeth tightly. His body, which was seated cross-legged within the wooden basin, began to involuntarily tremble slightly. An unusual sleek redness also surfaced on his skin. His forehead was filled with cold perspiration. Finally, it began to roll down his face, like a drizzle, before falling into the wooden basin. Only then did he understand why Yao Lao said that there would be some pain. However... was this little pain not a little too much?

The corners of Yao Lao's eyes were involuntarily lifted as he eyed this action of Xiao Yan while standing outside the wooden basin. He immediately let out a soft sigh. In a soft voice, he said, "Little fellow, you must hang on. If the washing of the bones is a success, you will be able to save a great amount of trouble when you advance to the Dou Wang class in the future."

# Chapter 520: Nine Star Da Dou Shi

Being in a furnace. This was Xiao Yan's current feeling. Moreover, this fire was actually rising from his bones. That pain caused Xiao Yan to inhale a cold breath of air. The multicolored medicinal liquid within the wooden basin was also bubbling more intensely. Moreover, one could even use one's naked eye to see threads of extremely tiny energy swiftly shuttling through the water before finally charging into Xiao Yan's skin. They then disappeared in an instant.

The strength of the energy that was contained within the medicinal liquid was something that he was still quietly shocked at. Especially now that he was truly experiencing it for himself, it was indeed worthy of being a natural spiritual object that had taken such a long time in order to agglomerate and take shape. This feeling was under the precondition of having other medicinal items to mediate it. If he were to directly soaked in it, he would not even know how he died.

As time flowed by, the multicolored bones in his body also strangely turned a little transparent. Under the observation of Xiao Yan's mind, he could faintly see the swiftly rolling marrow within his bones.

The energy that was wildly pouring from the medicinal liquid into his body did not stop just because the bones in his body were covered with a multicolored layer. The endless pure energy invaded Xiao Yan's body in large amounts. As long as it was something they came into contact with, regardless of whether it was the bones, the Qi Paths or even the cells and organs, they would cover all of it with the multicolored layer without exception. In an instant, the inner view of Xiao Yan's mind could only eye the multi colored interior of his body. His heart sighed sorrowfully. Immediately, he gathered his focus. He clearly knew that an even more tormenting pain was about to appear.

As Xiao Yan had expected, a searing pain that was more than ten times worse than before suddenly spread out from his Qi Paths, cells, organs, and other parts in his body after the multicolored layer had stuck to over half of them. In an instant, it was as though a fiery flame had been tossed

into Xiao Yan's entire body. That hot flame appeared to want to incinerate his body into a pile of ashes. It mercilessly unleashed an increasingly hotter temperature.

Following this soaring mess in him, Xiao Yan's entire body, which was soaking within the wooden basin, had turned into the color of burning charcoals at this instant. Threads of white fog seeped out from the top of his head. There was a faint charred smell carried within the white fog. Xiao Yan clenched his teeth tightly and a thread of bright redness flowed down from the corner of his mouth, dying his chin until it appeared quite bloody.

Yao Lao rolled his throat as he stood outside the wooden basin. His hands were involuntarily clenched. An anxiety flashed across his seemingly calm eyes. He clearly knew Xiao Yan's tenacity. However, the latter was still being turned into this manner by the washing and refining of the bones despite his toughness. It was difficult to imagine just what kind of pain it was.

Yao Lao may have known that this washing and refining of bones would definitely be quite painful, but he was uncertain just what kind of degree this so-called pain would reach since he had never used the 'Core Quenching Body Milk' before. From the looks of Xiao Yan's situation now, he understood that he had underestimated the pain from the washing of one's marrow. Since things had reached this point, he could only quietly pray that Xiao Yan would be able to continue enduring. There was no other choice.

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Pain. Other than pain, there was only pain. At this moment, the meaning that this word represented was being transmitted from every single part of his body. Other than bitterly suffering, he similarly had not the slightest solution with regards to this. The only thing that caused him to be a little gratified was that he could clearly sense waves of powerful energy being emitted following the spread of the searing, painful heat within his body. He realized that after the searing heat, the bone marrow, bones, Qi Paths, cells, muscles, etc., within his body were gradually having a drastic and

complete change. Clearly, this so-called washing and refining of bones truly possessed a large magical effect.

“Hang in there!”

Xiao Yan clenched his teeth, and viciously roared within his heart. After suffering in this manner for a long while, Xiao Yan’s spirit suddenly became a little absent-minded perhaps as a result of being numb to all of it. Under this absent-minded state, the intense, searing hot pain within his body greatly diminished. He had barely built up some resistance after enduring this searing pain for such a long while.

The torment gradually passed under the extremely slow flowing time. In the end, Xiao Yan completely descended into a kind of half awake and half asleep absent-minded state. This kind of feeling that was near a state of being lost had already caused him to forget about the concept of time. The only thing that he felt was that his bones, veins, cells, etc., were, little by little, slowly becoming purer and tougher under the grilling of this searing pain...

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Yao Lao placed his hand behind his back as he stood within the mountain cave. He stood outside the wooden basin without moving. It had been three days ever since Xiao Yan had entered the wooden basin. Yao Lao had not taken a single step during these three days. All of his attention was focused on Xiao Yan.

“Xiu!” A seven-colored glow suddenly flashed into the cave from its entrance. Finally, it lingered above the wooden basin. The ‘Heaven Swallowing Python’ eyed Xiao Yan whose entire body was like a burning charcoal. It involuntarily hissed as it extended and withdrew its tongue. There was some worry within those snake’s eyes.

“There is no need to worry. He has already endured the most painful period. The things after this will be a little smoother.” Yao Lao smiled. His gaze turned to the medicinal liquid within the wooden basin. He studied the much paler color of the medicinal liquid as he spoke.

The ‘Heaven Swallowing Python’ extended and withdrew its snake

tongue, appearing to have understood those words. After which, it swayed its tail before flashing out of the mountain cave. It wanted to help protect Xiao Yan in the outside world and prevent anything from disturbing him.

Yao Lao's gaze once again rested on Xiao Yan's body after he saw the 'Heaven Swallowing Python' leaving. He softly said, "Looks like it will be soon..."

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The searing pain that appeared like a raging fire had unknowingly become much weaker in Xiao Yan's body. A long time after, the searing pain quietly became fainter before disappearing. As the searing pain disappeared, Xiao Yan's mind, which was at a loss, suddenly woke up. His mind hurriedly swept over his body, and he was stunned to realize that the many colors, which originally covered his body, had completely disappeared. The bones, veins and other parts in his body emitted a faint fluorescent glow. At a glance, this manner appeared to have hidden an endless amount of energy.

Xiao Yan's mind woke up. It was like a key and the originally silent inner body immediately began the final circulation for his complete transformation, much like a precise machine.

"Bang!"

A soft muffled sound sounded. Xiao Yan's mind was somewhat stunned as he eyed the enormous energy that erupted from every corner of his body and he was momentarily absent-minded.

During the time that Xiao Yan was absent-minded, numerous amounts of large pure energy automatically flowed into his Qi Paths. If it was in the past, Xiao Yan's veins would definitely have the feeling of a swelling pain if such a large amount of energy poured in. Now, however, his Qi Paths merely expanded and shrunk in an extremely tough manner following the energy pouring in. Absorbing all of the large energy that came in one wave after another did not cause Xiao Yan to suffer even the slightest pain.

These waves of energy were extremely large, but they were so pure that it caused one to be surprised. The degree of purity was such that there was



no longer any need to purify it. Moreover, for some unknown reason, this energy did not have the slightest resistance to Xiao Yan. It was as easy as waving his hand.

The large energy moved and circulated along the vein route of the 'Flame Mantra' within his body. A day later, it became like an erupting flood that carried a loud rumble as it repeatedly rushed into the Dou Crystal within the vortex.

Under the pouring in of this large amount of energy, the pigeon egg-sized Dou Crystal was actually beginning to inflate at a speed visible to the naked eye.

Xiao Yan's mind carried some surprise as he eyed the swiftly expanding Dou Crystal. He could clearly sense that the Dou Qi stored within was being expended by multiple times. Under this trend, breaking through to a nine star Da Dou Shi was something as easy as flipping one's hands.

"Bang!"

The energy poured and surged without knowing how to be tired. At a certain instant, an extremely slight sound finally sounded within his body. Following the appearance of this clear sound, Xiao Yan realized that the Dou Crystal, which had already reached its maximum capacity, once again had an extremely large accommodation space appear within it. Under this strange sound, the Dou Crystal, which had already reached the size of a chicken egg, suddenly expanded until it was the size of a fist. Moreover, a bright intense glow repeatedly surged out. It shined in the interior of the vortex such that it appeared like daytime.

Xiao Yan inhaled a deep breath of air as he sensed the various changes within his body. He clearly knew that he had just broken through the eight star Da Dou Shi barrier at this instant and truly became a nine star Da Dou Shi! As long as he advanced by another step, he would be able to enter the Dou Ling class!

Due to the sudden swelling of the Dou Crystal, Xiao Yan sensed that the originally filled feeling within it changed to a much emptier one. His mind moved immediately and he circulated the last pure energy within his Qi

Paths before pouring it into the Dou Crystal. However, after advancing his level, the Dou Crystal no longer had the bottomless pit feeling it possessed earlier. The pouring in of this wave of energy was like a rock sinking into the ocean and did not give Xiao Yan any notable feeling.

“The gap between a Da Dou Shi and a Dou Ling is indeed enormous. Looks like it is a little impossible to directly break through to the Dou Ling class in one go.” This thought lingered in Xiao Yan’s heart. He sighed regretfully, and was just about to stop and withdraw when he suddenly discover a powerful suction force automatically surging out from the Dou Crystal. As this suction force erupted, waves of extremely powerful energy immediately flowed into his body from the outside world.

Since Xiao Yan’s body was within the medicinal liquid containing an extremely majestic energy, waves of enormous energy moved through his skin and entered into his body. After which, it ignored Xiao Yan’s control as it charged through Xiao Yan’s veins. After being circulated once, it finally rushed into the Dou Crystal in a rude and unreasonable manner.

Xiao Yan was stunned as he eyed what was happening within his body that had escaped his control. A long while later, he clenched his teeth and viciously said, “If you want to take the energy in, then take it in until you are full! If you have the ability, take it in until I break through to the Dou Ling class!”

Once these words sounded, Xiao Yan’s mind activated the ‘Flame Mantra’ Qi Method and circulated the energy. Following the circulation of the Qi Method, the energy that was uncontrollably pouring into his became even wilder...

# Chapter 521: Advancing to Dou Ling

Surprise flashed across Yao Lao's eyes within the mountain cave as he eyed the medicinal liquid that swiftly swirled within the wooden basin. With his ability, he could naturally sense the suction force that was surging explosively out from Xiao Yan's body. He immediately muttered softly, "This little fellow wants to break through the Da Dou Shi class in one go? Borrowing this formidable force, it appears that he has quite a good opportunity. However, the energy he needs is an extremely large amount..."

The medicinal liquid swiftly spiraled within the wooden basin. Waves of incomparably pure energy seeped out from the medicinal liquid. Finally, it poured into Xiao Yan's body during its training state. As this pure energy flowed until it was gone, the color of the originally multicolored medicinal liquid swiftly became pale. According to this speed, it was likely that not much time would be needed before the enormous energy within the medicinal liquid was completely absorbed by Xiao Yan.

On top of absorbing the energy within the medicinal liquid, the overly powerful suction force also forcefully pulled in and absorbed the surrounding natural energy. However, the energy that was being directly absorbed from nature was clearly many times more mottled compared to the energy within the medicinal liquid. However, it was superior in that there was an endless amount of this energy, and it would not run out no matter how much was being absorbed. Therefore, under this two-pronged absorption, the powerful energy was swarming into Xiao Yan's body in an unceasing trend. It pounced into the Dou Crystal which seemed like a bottomless pit.

Although Xiao Yan's suction force was extremely quick, the energy that he needed to advance his level was indeed overly large. If an ordinary person wanted to break through, he would undoubtedly require the accumulation of strength over a long period of time. The amount of energy needed for Xiao Yan's desire to advance two levels in one go was indeed a shockingly large amount. Hence, even though his absorption

speed was extremely fast, the fist-sized Dou Crystal still did not have the slightest feeling of being filled. At the very most, the originally bright surface became a little brighter.

Following the gradual flow of time, the momentum within Xiao Yan's body gradually showed traces of tire. This was especially after the last thread of pure energy within the medicinal liquid was absorbed by Xiao Yan. Having lost the support of this large amount of energy, the absorption of the energy from nature was far too insufficient to meet the swallowing demand of the Dou Crystal. Therefore, the powerful energy that swarmed into Xiao Yan's body also diminished greatly.

One of the worst things to happen while advancing to the next level is that is an insufficient energy supply. This would result in the failure to advance to the next level. However, there was no other choice for Xiao Yan who was within his training condition. Immediately, he could only repeatedly circulate his Qi Method in order to increase the strength of his absorption of the energy from nature.

One could obtain an endless supply of energy from nature, but only an extremely small amount of that mottled energy can be absorbed after it has been refined by one's body. This amount was undoubtedly just a drop in a bucket for Xiao Yan who was in the midst of advancing.

Within the mountain cave, Yao Lao was eyeing the medicinal liquid which had transformed into clear water. He once again glanced at the slight anxiety on Xiao Yan's brows. After musing for a moment, he waved his hand and once again took out that 'Core Quenching Body Milk.' He opened the cap of the bottle slightly and carefully dropped one drop of the emerald liquid into the wooden basin.

Following the drop of the 'Core Quenching Body Milk,' the originally clear water where one could see the bottom once again transformed into a rich emerald color. It was so rich that there was some fog, that would not disappear, lingering within the wooden basin. Enormous pure energy once again filled the water.

The drop of 'Core Quenching Body Milk' that was suddenly added was

undoubtedly like delivering charcoal to someone during a snowstorm from Xiao Yan's perspective. That wild pure energy swarmed into Xiao Yan's body through his pores, finally causing the tiredness within Xiao Yan's body to once again disappear. His mind moved and the pure energy, like bubbling spring water, unceasingly circulated within his Qi Paths. Finally, it poured into the Dou Crystal, contributing to the large amount of energy required.

There was no other medicinal ingredients added to this 'Core Quenching Body Milk' to neutralize it. Therefore, the energy that it contained was even more overbearing. Fortunately, Xiao Yan's body had become much stronger after the washing of the marrow Xiao Yan's earlier. Therefore, this overbearing energy may still have contained a faint piercing pain after it entered his body, but the searing pain from earlier was not felt at all.

This drop of 'Core Quenching Body Milk' gave a considerable amount of energy to Xiao Yan. However, the energy needed for his advancement could perhaps be even called unusual. The energy that was needed to stride across this barrier appeared to be like the sum of all the energy needed to advance within this one class. Hence, even though the energy contained within this drop of 'Core Quenching Body Milk' was extremely powerful, the emerald medicinal liquid within the wooden basin once again became clear after an hour of wild absorption.

Yao Lao narrowed his eyes as he stared at the medicinal liquid in the wooden basin that once again lacked color. He helplessly shook his head. After weighing the degree of the Qi Xiao Yan was currently radiating, he finally, with a hint of hesitation, poured two more drops of 'Core Quenching Body Milk' into the wooden basin.

An ordinary person who wanted to reach this stage of breaking through to a Dou Ling would undoubtedly require a long accumulation of energy. This accumulation could even reach the length of a couple of years. This timeframe allows one to see just how large the energy needed to break through this barrier was. If it were not for the natural spiritual object of the 'Core Quenching Body Milk,' Xiao Yan would at the most be able to break through to the nine star Da Dou Shi level. It was undoubtedly the

ravings of a lunatic if he wanted to break through to the Dou Ling class in one go. However, it was fortunate that this extremely rare and difficult to find 'Core Quenching Body Milk' was coincidentally in his hands. One must say that this was a blessing.

The richness of the energy contained within each drop of the 'Core Quenching Body Milk' was extremely shocking. Energy of this degree was likely able to match half a year's worth of energy accumulation for an ordinary person. Most of the energy of the ten drops of 'Core Quenching Body Milk' earlier were used to refine Xiao Yan's body. Only ten-percent to twenty-percent of the energy remained and was absorbed by Xiao Yan. In addition, the one drop of 'Core Quenching Body Milk' that was just added in was not sufficient enough to allow Xiao Yan to break through to the Dou Ling class. However, the two drops of 'Core Quenching Body Milk' that Yao Lao had just thrown in had finally become the final ladle of water in the filled container!

Xiao Yan's mind repeatedly commanded the energy to follow the route of the 'Flame Mantra' Qi Method to circulate. Unceasing amounts of energy whizzed past just like a car that ran forever on the expressway. Finally, that energy charged into the Dou Crystal.

Regardless of how deep a hole there was, there was ultimately a time when it would be filled. Although, the energy needed to advance was so large that it left one speechless, that enormous energy was swiftly being made-up under the addition of these three drops of 'Core Quenching Body Milk'...

Just as the medicinal liquid in the wooden basin, again, turned into pure water, the enormous suction force that was erupting from Xiao Yan's body suddenly disappeared. His body trembled slightly as the pores all over his body shrank, imprisoning all the energy within his body and not allowing any of it to spill out.

The fist-sized Dou Crystal within the vortex was like a bright sun. The warm and eye-piercing light repeatedly shot out from within, shining through the vortex until it was transparent.

The final wave of energy completed its circulation within the Qi Paths and flowed into the vortex before finally pouring into the sun-like Dou Crystal.

“Hum!”

Following the pouring in of this final wave of energy, the rhombus-shaped Dou Crystal suddenly shook slightly. A low humming sound was quietly emitted before it finally reverberated. The sound didn't disappear from the vortex.

“Bang, bang...”

A slight and rhythmic voice sounded from within the vortex. When one listened carefully, it was similar to that of a heart beat, appearing extremely strange.

Following the appearance of this rhythmic sound, the glow on the rhombus Dou Crystal also fluctuated between strong and weak. Moreover, under the focus of Xiao Yan's mind, he was stunned to realize that the originally somewhat irregular Dou Crystal had become as round as a sphere.

Following the Dou Crystal becoming round, corners strangely protruded out. That manner was as though it was a sea urchin that was covered by pricks... If one were to count it carefully, that sea urchin appeared to coincidentally possess nine long pricks.

The Dou Crystal, which was like a sea urchin, glowed weak at times and intense at others. Following the intensification and weakening of the glow, that rhythm-like heartbeat sounded once again. It was as though it was a heart filled with vigor...

After the rhombus-shaped Dou Crystal completely turned into a sea-urchin-shaped Dou Crystal, the intensification and weakening of the glow on its surface became increasingly rapid. That sound of a heart beating also followed it and became faster...

“Bang, bang...”

A low muffled sound slowly reverberated within his body. In the end, it

reached a point where it was nearly the same rhythm as Xiao Yan's heart.

The instant when the two kinds of beats merged together, the sea-urchin-like Dou Crystal suddenly shook in the vortex. An extremely powerful energy ripple suddenly spread out from the Dou Crystal!

The energy ripple passed through the vortex, his veins, the bones in his body, and finally his skin without any resistance. Immediately, it erupted in a sudden motion!

Xiao Yan, who was seated cross-legged within the wooden basin in the mountain cave suddenly opened his eyes. A sharp, clear substance-like glow shot out explosively. A wave of powerful aura spread out from his body. As his breath spewed forth, Xiao Yan suddenly raised his head. A clear roar that carried a powerful Dou Qi exploded from the mountain cave just like muffled thunder!

“Bang!”

As the clear roar sounded, powerful energy ripples broke from his body. Suddenly, a mist began splashing everywhere. The wooden basin which Xiao Yan was in had turned into sawdust under the sweeping energy ripple. The energy ripple did not stop after it shattered the wooden basin, but continued to sweep through the entire mountain cave. In an instant, sounds of explosions came wave after wave in the mountain cave. Numerous crack lines began spreading on the enormous rocks. Finally, they embraced the entire mountain cave.

The entire interior of the mountain cave was a complete mess after the clear roar passed.

The mist gradually fell and a black shadow flashed out in a ghost-like manner. Finally, it stood proudly. The delicate and handsome face was filled with a wild joy.

“Have I succeeded?”



# Chapter 522: Returning to the Academy

A black-colored human figure flashed about, like rolling thunder on the mountain peak. A faint silver-colored lightning glow was partially visible under the human figure's feet. The enormous black ruler in his hands carried the suppressing sound of cleaving wind. Although the black ruler was extremely big, it was just like a longsword when it was held in the human figure's hand. As it waved and danced, there was an agility and trickiness within its overbearing body.

“Chi!”

Under the sudden hacking of the enormous ruler's body, the sharp wind tore the air. A faint green glow shrouded its body, much like a cluster of green-colored flames. This caused the wind from the ruler to carry a hot feeling.

With the angry hacking of the black ruler, it finally carried a wild and incomparably ferocious force that violently hacked at a green rock by his side. The two came into contact, and a sudden explosion sound appeared. The tough green rock let out a ‘bang’ and was completely shattered under the ferocious force contained within the ruler's body. Countless tiny rock fragments shot explosively all over the place. In merely an instant, only a small half of the green rock that was half the height of a person remained inserted on top of the mountain.

“Hu!”

Xiao Yan's hands maintained the posture of having hacked with the heavy ruler. A sleek redness appeared on his face. After inhaling a breath of air, the sleek redness gradually became fainter as his breath once again returned to being long and smooth. Following the recovery of his breathing, one could see that the green veins that had bulged out on his hand had quietly returned to normal. The powerful strength on his tightly tensed muscles slowly became weaker until it finally disappeared.

Xiao Yan withdrew the heavy ruler. The silver-colored lightning under his feet also disappeared with it. He turned his head slightly as he gave his

body a random shake. He could hear cracking sounds from his bones, and he involuntarily gave a satisfied smile.

The washing and refining of his bones back then had nearly caused Xiao Yan's strength to soar to nearly twice what it was. Not only did the bones in his body become tougher, but Xiao Yan was also able to sense a powerful strength concealed under his skin when his muscles were tight. It was waiting to erupt and gush out.

The washing and refining of his bones had caused Xiao Yan to gain faster and more sensitive agility. It even increased his mental reaction on top of causing his flesh to become twice as strong as before. Moreover, now that he had broken through to the Dou Ling class, Xiao Yan was better able to sense the nearly complete transformation within his body.

If it was in the past, Xiao Yan could at the very most endure for over ten minutes when displaying the 'Three Thousand Lightning Movement.' Now that he had advanced his strength, the Dou Qi in his body had greatly increased and he was able to extend this time by over five times. From this, one could see the obvious gap between a Da Dou Shi and a Dou Ling.

"The feeling of a Dou Ling is not bad right?" Yao Lao's body was suspended in mid-air. He smiled and spoke while eyeing the excited Xiao Yan.

"They are indeed two different classes. The gap between the two is indeed a large one." Xiao Yan used his strength to nod his head. In the past, if it were not because he possessed the 'Angry Buddha Lotus Flame' as well as a kind of unique item like the 'Green Lotus Core Flame,' forget about defeating a three star Dou Ling, even a person who had just entered the Dou Ling class was likely to finish him off and turn him into a miserable state if he had just relied on his strength as a Da Dou Shi. Now that he had personally experienced the great strength of a Dou Ling, even Xiao Yan himself involuntarily felt an admiration for his previous self, who had challenged this stronger class.

"Now that I have advanced to a Dou Ling, it is likely that I will be able to face an ordinary two or three star Dou Ling head on in a fight by relying

on the uniqueness of the 'Flame Mantra' Qi Method. If I were to also display the 'Sky Fire Three Mysterious Change,' I may perhaps be able to contend with a strong person of Bai Cheng's level. Putting it this way, I am qualified to enter the 'Strong Ranking' with my strength." Xiao Yan's tightened fist relaxed. He sensed the powerful force brewing within it and the corner of his mouth involuntarily lifted into a smile. This kind of achievement was sufficient enough to cause Xiao Yan to be proud. After all, the training talent of those within this Inner Academy was ridiculous. They were called geniuses in the outside world without exception. The difficulty of rising within this place was quite large.

Xiao Yan used his strength to stretch his lazy waist. He took a step forward and overlooked the vast sea of trees below from high in the air. A frown suddenly appeared a long while later as he said, "I have trained for a total of more than two months within these deep mountains. It is time to return to the Inner Academy. The 'Strong Ranking Competition' that Lin Yan mentioned will perhaps be soon. As long as I can break into the top ten, I would have the qualification to enter the few lower levels of the 'Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower.' For some unknown reason, I keep feeling that the so-called 'Refining the body with the Essence Heart Flame' has some relationship with the 'Fallen Heart Flame.'

"That 'Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower' is indeed quite mysterious. Even the strength of my Spiritual Strength could not be spread throughout that place. Therefore, my quiet probing did not have the slightest effect. Although I am unable to probe, I was still able to sense that there were quite a number of strong people guarding the lowest few levels. If one were to forcefully break in, it is likely that his or her efforts would be futile even if he or she was an elite Dou Zong. We do not know much about the situation of the 'Fallen Heart Flame' within the tower. If we are able to go deeper to the lower levels of the tower, we might be able to obtain some information related to the 'Fallen Heart Flame.'" Yao Lao voiced his thoughts.

Xiao Yan sighed softly. He was a little vexed as he rubbed his temple. He muttered, "It really is troublesome."

Yao Lao could only helplessly shake his head when he saw Xiao Yan's bitter face. He said, "There is no other choice. The reputation of the Jia Nan Academy in the Dou Qi continent is very prominent. Usually even some first rate factions would not overly offend them, much less a person like me who is merely in a spiritual form. Even at my peak back then, I would have had to think twice and weigh things carefully in my heart before coming to the Jia Na Academy to snatch something."

Xiao Yan nodded with a bitter smile. He had endured a great amount of hardship and spent a lot of effort in order to come to this Jia Nan Academy. His purpose was the 'Fallen Heart Flame.' Therefore, Xiao Yan's heart had a feeling that he must have this thing. It was likely that he would not even care even if he ended up offending this Jia Nan Academy. If he truly wanted to become a strong person, the evolution of the 'Flame Mantra' played an extremely crucial role. In order to get the 'Flame Mantra' to evolve, the 'Heavenly Flame' was something that he must not lack!

Xiao Yan's gaze turned toward the south. That place was where the 'Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower' stood within the Inner Academy. It was a long while later before the fiery heat within his eyes quietly withdrew. He let out a gentle smile before shaking his shoulders. The Purple Cloud Wings shot out. With a gentle flap, his body turned into a black shadow that hurriedly flew out of the mountain range. In an instant, he turned into a small, black dot that disappeared on the horizon.

Xiao Yan spent a total of nearly three hours traveling from the mountain range to the Inner Academy. If Xiao Yan had not advanced to a Dou Ling, it was likely that he would have difficulty flying for such a long time without stopping along the way to his destination.

When was still a couple of hundred meters from the Inner Academy, Xiao Yan carefully withdrew his Purple Cloud Wings. His body landed in a dense forest. After seeing that there was no one around, he finally rushed toward the Inner Academy, whose outline was already visible.

Relying on the Inner Academy badge on his chest, Xiao Yan entered the Inner Academy without facing any resistance. He eyed the scattering

human figures in his sight and involuntarily exhaled a long breath. During these two months, Xiao Yan had never met even the slightest human figure other than Lin Xiu Ya and the few others.

Xiao Yan's tensed feeling quietly became much more comfortable after entering the Inner Academy. His swift footsteps gradually slowed, and turned into a leisurely pace as he slowly walked to the new student region where 'Pan's Gate' was located.

Xiao Yan did not carry the enormous symbolic black ruler, so hardly anyone along the way who recognized him, he who had the name of the 'Top Alchemist in the Inner Academy.' Therefore, Xiao Yan did not face any resistance on his nearly half an hour walk to the new student region.

Xiao Yan's brows were slightly knit without being noticed as he came increasingly closer to the new student region. Usually, this area ought to have members of the 'Pan's Gate' guarding all the time. However, it was completely empty...

Xiao Yan's footsteps walked into the new student area. The empty road caused Xiao Yan's frown to deepen further. His originally leisurely footsteps suddenly became faster.

"Atai!"

Xiao Yan finally saw a large group of people, who were in a hurry, appear around a corner in front of him when he had reached the pavilion home in the middle. He immediately cried out when he saw the appearance of the leader of the group.

The originally hurried group of people were initially startled when they heard this familiar cry. Quickly following this, a wild joy immediately rushed onto the face of the leader, Atai. He raised his head and eyed the black-robed human figure before speaking in a joyous manner, "Chief? You are back?"

"Chief! Chief has returned!" A group of people behind Atai involuntarily cheered when they saw Xiao Yan's appearance.

"Where are Xun Er and the rest?" Xiao Yan's gaze swept across the faces

of Atai and the others only to discover a faint fury. His expression sank slightly. A weak silver glow flashed under his feet. Immediately, his body suddenly appeared in front of Atai and the rest dozens of meters away from him before he asked in a low voice.

“Senior Xun Er and the rest have gone to the Fighting Arena.” The ghost-like figure that Xiao Yan had displayed shocked Atai and the rest before they immediately replied in a hurried manner.

“The fighting Arena? What happened?” Xiao Yan narrowed his eyes as he asked.

“Dammit. What else other than the group of bastards from the ‘White Gang.’” A fury suddenly swarmed onto the faces of Atai and the others when they mentioned this, “This morning, Senior Hu Jia led a group of members from the ‘Pan’s Gate’ to enter the ‘Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower’ to train. Originally, they had already found a place and had trained within it for a period of time. In the end, the members of the ‘White Gang’ suddenly forcefully pushed the door open and relied on their larger number of people to chase the members of our ‘Pan’s Gate’ out. Senior Hu Jia had argued with them, but the few bastards on the opposite side insulted her. Senior Hu Jia was infuriated and began fighting with them. However, who knew that the other party actually had two strong Dou Lings hiding at the side. Although Senior Hu Jia injured one of them in her furious attack, she herself also received a blow from the other party and was injured quite badly.”

“After the brothers of ‘Pan’s Gate’ brought Senior Hu Jia back, Senior Wu Hao immediately became furious upon hearing about this matter. He led people to run to the ‘White Gang.’ According to the brothers that had returned, Senior Wu Hao had issued a challenge letter to Bai Cheng. Currently, Senior Xun Er and the others led everyone to the Fighting Arena.”

“Chief, those bastards from the ‘White Gang’ are becoming increasingly arrogant. They used the fact that we don’t have any strong Dou Ling to repeated come and find trouble with us!”

“Chief, this time around, we must go all out against them! We cannot continue to endure it!” A large group of members from the ‘Pan’s Gate’ furiously cried out from behind Atai. Clearly, they had already reached the limit of their endurance of the provocation of the ‘White Gang.’

Xiao Yan waved his hand gently. All the furious curses stopped. Numerous gazes carried some anticipation as they eyed the former.

Xiao Yan’s face was gloomy. A faint furious glow flashed across his dark-black eyes. A moment later, he lifted the corner of his mouth before suddenly turning around and coldly saying, “Let’s go!”

# Chapter 523: Appearance

The Fighting Arena was the most popular area within the Inner Academy. Usually speaking, the somewhat bloody area of the fighting arena was an opposing existence to the atmosphere of the academy. However, this Inner Academy did not shun this kind of conflict. However, it must be said that the decisions of the Inner Academy was a wise one. The existence of the Fighting Arena resulted in the Inner Academy students being different from the students of other academies, who merely knew how to fight on the surface. Should the students from the latter group fall into a brutal life and death battle, their feet would tremble.

Due to them being surrounded by the most chaotic region in the continent, the kind of students that did not have any experience with bloody fights would likely have the odds against them should they fall into the 'Black-Corner Region.' This was something that Jia Nan Academy, who had quite a number of conflicts with the 'Black-Corner Region' every year, could not be more certain about.

Under the precondition of having rich rewards of 'Fire Energy' in the Fighting Arena, there would be a countless number of students fighting at that place. Although most people wanted to satisfy their desires and make a breakthrough from a fight, being able to obtain the additional reward on top of the increase in fighting experience was something that everyone was extremely happy to receive.

The Fighting Arena could be described as having as many people as the mountains and seas. The noise and the various roars from within were something that one could clearly hear even if one was a hundred meters away.

The Fighting Arena was crowded, and filled with a countless number of figures without exception. If one were to take a quick glance, one would be able to see black masses of human heads. An extremely noisy sound buzzed by their ears, much like the monstrous noise of a drill, causing the heads of some of the people who were not used to the sound to feel a swelling pain.



This enormous Fighting Arena had quite a number of fairly large platforms. However, over half of the human crowd today had swarmed toward one of the platforms. The forceful ripples that erupted from the violent collision caused numerous cries and mighty roars to occupy the entire arena.

“Chief, finish him off!”

“Let those bastard new students know just how strong our ‘White Gang’ is!”

Some students wearing a similar badge on the viewing gallery outside the battleground eyed their leader in the arena who was at a great advantage in the battle. Their faces were filled with wild joy as they cried out loud. On top of shouting out loud, some of them could not resist letting out a ridicule of laughter toward the large group of people on the other side of the viewing gallery.

Looking at the human crowd on the viewing gallery on the opposite side, one could see that the leader was a young lady wearing green clothes. The young lady was extremely beautiful, but the thing that really caused people’s heart to be moved was her unique lotus-like demeanor. The reason why this battleground could attract over half of the audience of the Fighting Arena was partly because of the appearance and demeanor of this young lady.

Although they had fallen into a great disadvantage in the battleground, the green-clothed lady’s quiet face was still calm. However, her delicate brows contained some anxiety.

Standing behind the green-clothed young lady was a large group of students wearing a similar badge on their chests. Some fury swarmed onto their faces when they heard the mockery and ridicule that was transmitted from the other side. However, due to the situation on their side being poor, they could only swallow the furious curses that had reached their mouths.

“Xun Er, it looks like Wu Hao is no match for Bai Cheng. This fellow is really too impulsive.” A beautiful lady who was wearing red clothes and possessed a hot figure was standing beside the green-clothed young lady.

When she saw the human figure fall into a great disadvantage within the arena, a bitter smile could not help but surface on her somewhat pretty pale-white face while she spoke to the green-clothed lady by her side.

Xun Er nodded slightly. She slowly tightened her delicate hand. Those watery pupils were focused on the battleground for a long while before she softly spoke, "Although Wu Hao recently broke through to a nine star Da Dou Shi, the gap between both parties is after all too much... if it really cannot work, I will replace him."

"You want to personally take action?" Hu Jia was startled when she heard this. There were very few people who could truly understand Xun Er's strength. This was because the young lady in front always showed that calm and clear manner no matter what situation they were in. It was as though she had an unlimited number of hidden cards.

"I cannot allow Xiao Yan ge-ge to see 'Pan's Gate' be ridiculed in such a manner when he returns." Xun Er smiled slightly. Her gentle voice, however, carried some indifferent coldness, "I originally wanted to leave that Bai Cheng for Xiao Yan ge-ge. Now, however... I'm afraid that I have to be the first one to take care of him."

These words of Xun Er made it seem as if taking care of Bai Cheng, whose strength had reached that of a six star Dou Ling, did not require too much strength. If it was an ordinary person who said this, Hu Jia would definitely laugh mockingly. However, when she saw Xun Er's calm manner, not the slightest doubt formed in her mind. She nodded slightly, turned around and threw her gaze toward the battle below.

"'Pan's Gate?' The faction which Xiao Yan had established?" A few human figures were leaning on a rail, within the Fighting Arena, that had a good view. They eyed the fight below. When they heard a voice, one of them was involuntarily a little stunned as he spoke.

"Yes. 'Pan's Gate' was a faction that had been established by the new students initially. Now, after some absorption, there are also quite a number of older students in there. It is true that their leader is Xiao Yan." Long silver-colored hair drifted gently, and its bright color caused a

person's eyes to feel a little piercing pain. Han Yue glanced at the somewhat startled Lin Xiuya and the others before speaking.

“Hee hee, this fellow is quite a talent. He has only been in the Inner Academy for half a year, but he already has such an achievement.” Lin Xiuya laughed, “However, from the looks of the situation below, ‘Pan’s Gate’ appears to have fallen into a disadvantage. That new student may have a sharp attack and carries a rare killing aura, but the gap between him and Bai Cheng is too big. In any case, he is already quite impressive for being able to force Bai Cheng into scrambling around by just relying on his strength at the peak of the Da Dou Shi class.”

“I have received some information yesterday. That fellow Liu Qing appears to have sent someone to make contact with that Bai Cheng. Originally, Bai Cheng had become a little afraid due to Xiao Yan’s victory in the pill refining competition with Han Xian. There was no problem during the earlier period of time. However, just after Liu Qing sent someone to make contact with Bai Cheng, the latter became this arrogant. One must say that there are some tricks involved.” At one side, Yan Hao eyes suddenly glanced to the other side of the Fighting Arena as he playfully spoke. Although he had a rough outer appearance, his heart was much more meticulous than other people.

“Xiao Yan also has some conflict with Liu Qing?” Lin Xiuya could not resist speaking in surprise when he heard this.

“Not exactly. However, there is some conflict between Xiao Yan and Liu Fei. It is not as though you don’t know about the narrow mindedness of that woman.” Yan Hao said faintly. His voice appeared to feel reveal some disdain for Liu Fei.

“Ke ke, there is going to be a good show to watch. Looking at Xiao Yan, he does not appear to be someone who likes to be bullied. Although his strength is only that of a Da Dou Shi, even I get a dangerous feeling when observing him. I think he hides his abilities deep.” Lin Xiuya laughed softly. His hands held the railing while his gaze randomly drifted to the spot where Yan Hao had looked at earlier. At that spot, there was a faint vague human figure standing in the shadows. The faint sharp

domineering aura, however, allowed Lin Xiuya and the others to recognize who that person was.

Yan Hao also smiled. His smile appeared to possess some anticipation of the two colliding head on.

Han Yue at the side, however, knit her pretty brows slightly. Immediately, she let out a helpless sigh as she once again threw her gaze to the fiery hot fight.

“Bang!”

A red and a white human figure rushed around within the battleground in a lightning-like manner. Finally, they appeared like two falling stars that suddenly collided in mid-air. Immediately, two powerful Dou Qis erupted abruptly. Under this powerful force, even the hard ground couldn't take it and a crack line formed.

“Qiang!”

A clear metal sound that carried sparks sounded from the spot where the two collided. The blood-colored heavy sword and the dark-yellow long spear collided heavily with one another. A forceful ripple that was visible to the naked eye surged out explosively. It immediately collided against the bodies of the two people.

“Bang, bang!”

Amidst the deep sound, the footsteps of the two human figures withdrew. However, the white-colored human figure merely took two steps back before he steadied his feet. With a soft muffled sound and a shake of his shoulders, he resolved the force.

Compared to the white-colored human figure, the red-colored human figure was much more miserable looking. He not only took seven or eight steps back, but a bright-red blood trace also spilled from the corner of his mouth when his last footstep fell. His Qi fluctuated disorderly. Clearly, he had received quite a serious internal injury.

“Chief, great!” When they saw the red-colored human figure be forced back and spit out blood, the group of members from the ‘White Gang’ on

the viewing gallery could not help but erupt into waves of cheers. Immediately, there was even more ridicule being given to 'Pan's Gate' on the opposite side, infuriating all the members of 'Pan's Gate' until their expressions were green.

"Wild and arrogant brat. You actually want to challenge me when you are just a nine star Da Dou Shi? You are really overconfident." Bai Cheng swung his dark-yellow spear, and placed it such that it was tilted sideways toward the ground. The corner of Bai Cheng's mouth was lifted when he heard the thunder-like cheers from the surroundings. He said with a cold smile, "In the eyes of a truly strong person, your 'Pan's Gate' is but a clown who merely jumps around. So what if you can earn 'Fire Energy?' No matter how much 'Fire Energy' you have, you will merely be a big fat lamb in the eyes of others if you do not have any strength."

"Pei!" A mouthful of fresh blood was spat out from Wu Hao's mouth. He had a dark and solemn face as his eyes stared at the cold smile of Bai Cheng with a blood glint. That manner was just like a bloodthirsty, ferocious beast. Under the focus of this kind of expression, even Bai Cheng felt a little coldness in his body.

The blood glow flashed in Wu Hao's eyes. A moment later, he appeared to have made a certain resolution. His hand rubbed the blood trace from the corner of his mouth. After which, he slowly drew a line with the fresh blood on the blood-colored heavy sword. Following the tainting with the blood, the blood-colored heavy sword had some dark-red color that faintly appeared. A strange purple-redness also gradually swarmed onto his face.

Bai Cheng frowned slightly when he saw Wu Hao's strange action. He took the long spear in his hand and pointed it at Wu Hao from a distance.

Just as Wu Hao was prepared to activate his final trump card to the next level, a green-colored pretty figure suddenly flashed and appeared in the battleground in an agile manner. Her perfect white jade-like hand gently patted his shoulders. Immediately, the wild and violent energy rolling within Wu Hao's body quieted down.

"Let me take over." A soft voice caused Wu Hao to be startled. He eyed

the willow-like delicate waist in front of him. However, he shook his head and said in a deep voice, "I can handle him!"

Xun Er threw a faint glance to Bai Cheng before immediately turning her head and knitting her pretty eyebrows as she eyed Wu Hao who was insistent. Under the calm gaze of the former, Wu Hao was instantly defeated. He let out a burst of laughter and could only softly say, "Be careful."

"Why? Does the 'Pan's Gate' not have anyone? They actually want to allow a lady come out? Where is Xiao Yan? Why is it that I don't see the slightest trace of him at this moment? Don't tell me that he is afraid?" Bai Cheng involuntarily mocked and laughed when he saw that Xun Er was the one who had flashed into the battleground.

"Xiao Yan ge-ge does not need to act in order to handle you." Xun Er softly said. Her manner which acted as though there was no one else present caused quite a number of people on the viewing gallery to feel surprise. Just this leisurely aura in the face of a strong opponent caused some people to increase their adoration for this green-clothed lady in the battleground by multiple times. However, while they were exclaiming over this aura of Xun Er, they involuntarily felt some resentment toward Xiao Yan who had not shown himself. As a man, he actually let a girl step forward...

"Are all the members of 'Pan's Gate' this arrogant? The batch of new students this year really has the worst attitude among all those that have come in these few years." Bai Cheng could not help but become furious when he was looked down upon by a lady, especially such a beautiful one.

Xun Er was too lazy to even reply to his words this time around. A golden-colored glow gradually surged on her delicate hand. The powerful energy that was contained within it quietly caused quite a number of people to let out a surprised 'huh.'

Surprise flashed across Bai Cheng's face when he saw the golden-colored glow on Xun Er's palm. Immediately, he let out a cold laugh. He swung his long spear, and a rich, powerful dark-yellow Dou Qi shrouded

over it.

The golden glow and dark-yellow glow in the battleground grew brighter. A moment later, both lights flashed at the same time. Finally, they shot out explosively under the focus of a countless number of gazes. Instantly, they met in mid-air. However, just as everyone thought that a ferocious collision would once again erupt, the faint sound of rolling thunder reverberated faintly within the Fighting Arena.

The instant the thunderous sound appeared, a black-colored afterimage suddenly appeared between the two clusters of light that were about to make contact. Both hands extended out in a lightning-like manner before they pressed themselves on the shoulders of both parties. A gentle force was the first to swarm out, gently shaking Xun Er until she drifted back to the edge of the battle circle. Immediately after this, the other hand which made contact with Bai Cheng suddenly unleashed a ferocious force that shook the latter until his legs hurriedly withdrew.

The appearance of the black-colored afterimage as well as Xun Er and Bai Cheng being forcefully shaken back was something that happened in a mere fraction of a second. Most of the people merely sensed that their sight had become a little blurry. Immediately, they eyed the two human figures being forced back with a stunned look.

“Naturally, being wild and arrogant requires the capital to be wild and arrogant. If Leader Bai Cheng feels that you can no longer simply sit by and watch, then I, Xiao Yan, can play with you. Won’t fighting with a lady merely cause you to lose your status.” A faint laugh suddenly sounded within the arena. Everyone was startled. They hurriedly shifted their gazes and immediately eyed a black-robed human figure who had unknowingly appeared in the battleground. Their faces were filled with astonishment.

The black-colored afterimage in the battleground swiftly became real. The black-robed human figure raised his head slightly, revealing a delicate and handsome smiling face. However, anyone could see that there was ice-cold killing intent under this smile.

“Ha... Now the fun show is about to begin...”

The eyes of Lin Xiuya suddenly brightened as he leaned on the railing in the corner of the Fighting Arena. His gaze involuntarily turned toward where the shadows were. The human figure hidden at that place appeared to have straightened his body at this instant. The sharp overbearing aura had quietly become more intense.



# Chapter 524: Fierce Fighting

The black-robed, young man who had suddenly appeared caused the noisy fighting arena to descend into an extremely brief silence. Upon hearing the words that were emitted from his mouth, everyone immediately understood just who the person who had come was. Immediately, the members of 'Pan's Gate' erupted into a thunder-like cheer. The remaining audience also carried some excitement as they weighed Xiao Yan. Their gazes had some anticipation. Xiao Yan's alchemist skills were well known after his competition with Han Xian. However, having outstanding medicinal refining skills did not represent his fighting strength. In this place which was filled with violence, only the hardest fist could cause others to feel a deep respect in their hearts. All the other things like status were totally useless.

Therefore, upon Xiao Yan's appearance, everyone wanted to see whether this young man, who had outstanding pill refining skills, would have a fighting ability that was sufficient enough to cause others to view him seriously.

The instant when Xun Er was shaken back, she had sensed a familiar strength. The powerful golden light agglomerated on her hands gradually disappeared as she allowed that gentle force to send her out of the battle circle. Her pretty eyes studied the tall figure in the battleground. Only then did she quietly calm down her raised heart.

"Xiao Yan ge-ge, the time that remains belongs to you."

"Hei, Xiao Yan, you are finally willing to appear?" Bai Cheng shook his shoulders as his feet violently stepped on the ground before resolving that force. Finally, he raised his head and eyed the black-robed, young man, and involuntarily let out a cold laugh.

Xiao Yan glanced at him. As his hand rolled, the enormous Heavy Xuan Ruler appeared. His right hand tightly held the ruler's hilt and waved it viciously. Immediately, a powerful wind that carried a humming sound appeared in the arena: "Looks like Senio Bai Cheng really missed me.

Unfortunately, Senior Bai Cheng is not a female. Otherwise, I would be extremely happy.”

“Ha ha.”

The people in the surrounding viewing gallery could not help but erupt with laughter when they heard Xiao Yan’s joking voice.

The corner of Bai Cheng’s eyes twitched as he coldly said, “A razor sharp tongue. This time around, I want to see just what excuse you will find to extract yourself and flee.”

“There is no need to find any excuses. Wu Hao issued a challenge letter to you and I will accept it. I have waited for this day for a long time. Let’s settle all the scores from the past.” Xiao Yan let out a soft laugh. His heavy ruler landed heavily on the hard ground. The forceful weight caused some tiny crack lines to form on the ground. Finally, Xiao Yan raised his head and smiled as he replied to Bai Cheng.

“Ha ha, good. You got guts. However, since you are seeking to embarrass yourself today, don’t blame me for using all my strength.” A joy immediately surfaced on Bai Cheng’s face. He laughed out loud when he saw that Xiao Yan did not try to flee this time around, and instead took the initiative to accept the fight.

“Senior Bai Cheng, you still say as much nonsense as you usually do.” Xiao Yan laughed. His face may have appeared harmonious, but the words that he spat out caused Bai Cheng’s face to become increasingly gloomy.

“Hopefully, this mouth of yours will not end up begging for mercy later.” Bai Cheng finally ceased speaking after those dark and gloomy words. He held the dark-yellow long spear tightly in his hand. The body of the spear shook slightly and the rich yellow-colored Dou Qi surged out explosively from within his body. In an instant, it wrapped the body of the spear within it.

“Ground affinity Dou Qi huh...” Xiao Yan lifted his eyebrows when he saw the color of Bai Cheng’s Dou Qi. Dou Qi of this affinity specialized in being sturdy and long lasting. Compared to people of the same level, the time which one could fight would be much longer. Moreover, this kind of

Dou Qi focused on defense. When fighting with others, one could rely on the richness of one's long lasting Dou Qi to drag it out until the opponent would become too tired. When fighting with a person of this Dou Qi affinity, erupting a wild and violent strength within a short period of time to perform suppressing attacks was the most appropriate tactic.

Xiao Yan twisted his body slightly. Powerful green-colored Dou Qi surged out from his body. Following the surfacing of the Dou Qi, a powerful aura also began spreading out of his body. Quite a number of people were stunned as they sensed the degree of strength of this aura.

“Dou Ling?”

Xun Er, Hu Jia, and Wu Hao in the viewing gallery exchanged looks with one another. Their eyes revealed some surprise and joy. It was unexpected that Xiao Yan had actually broken through to the Dou Ling class after having not seen him for two months. One level per month. This training speed was something that undergoing a training retreat within the ‘Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower’ all day would not be able to catch up with.

“This fellow... he actually reached the Dou Ling class after less than half a month?” Lin Xiuya and the others displayed faces that were similarly filled with surprise. Back then, when they had met Xiao Yan in the deep mountains, the latter's strength was at the very most around that of a eight or nine star Da Dou Shi. Although a person of this class was already not very far from the Dou Ling class, they, who had personally experienced this step, clearly knew just what kind of tough accumulation one must undertake in order to break through the barrier between a Da Dou Shi and a Dou Ling. Therefore, they could not help but feel stunned when they saw the degree of power of Xiao Yan's Qi.

“No wonder he faced Bai Cheng this time around. It is because he has advanced his strength, but even if that is the case, there is still a six star gap between Bai Cheng and him. This is not something that one can easily make up for.” Yan Hao also smiled and spoke on top of being shocked.

“I believe that he can win.” A smile surfaced on the cold face of Han Yue by the side. Back then, when Xiao Yan was merely a five or six star Da Dou

Shi, he was already able to cause even a three star Dou Ling to feel great fear. Now that his strength had soared and advanced into the Dou Ling class, Han Yue still possessed quite a great amount of confidence despite the fact that Bai Cheng was six levels stronger.

“I also have some confidence in him. I wonder what that fellow thinking?” Lin Xiuya lazily stretched his waist. His gaze was thrown toward the faint human figure in the dark area while he smiled and spoke.

The moment when the viewing gallery was boiling because of the Qi that Xiao Yan had displayed, Bai Cheng was also startled. An astonishment drew past his eyes. It was a long while later before an additional seriousness gradually appeared on his face. He coldly said, “No wonder you are even more arrogant this time around. It is actually because your strength has advanced.”

Xiao Yan’s body trembled slightly. The clear sound of his bones colliding reverberated unceasingly, just like firecrackers within his body. Xiao Yan exhaled a long breath after this continued for a while. He smiled slightly as he sensed the enormous strength that filled his muscles and bones. While raising his head to eye Bai Cheng, his hand suddenly tightened its grip on the ruler’s hilt. His feet slowly took a few steps forward as the heavy ruler in his hand was dragged on the ground, emitting a ‘sha sha’ sound. At the same time, it also brought about a white-colored trace on the hard ground.

Bai Cheng coldly watched Xiao Yan as the latter gradually approached. He sensed that increasingly strong Qi and his hand tightened his grip on the yellow-colored long spear slightly. His eyes stared intently at Xiao Yan’s steps. Just as Xiao Yan had stepped into a radius of around ten meters from Bai Cheng’s body, a low cry was emitted from the latter’s mouth. Powerful dark-yellow Dou Qi, that was like thick yellow water, surged out from his body.

Bai Cheng’s feet heavily stepped on the ground. His body transformed into a yellow shadow. Dou Qi swiftly agglomerated at the tip of his spear. Borrowing the charging force, his body was stacked with the body of the spear. Under the cover of the Dou Qi, his body and the long spear had

basically merged together. The long spear cut through the air and the 'chi chi' sound it made was quite loud.

The charging strength of a strong six star Dou Ling would have a strength that could shatter an enormous rock on the spot. Xiao Yan did not meet Bai Cheng's ferocious opening attack head-on. A faint silver-colored glow was partially visible on his feet. As his body swayed, it strangely disappeared from his original spot.

Bai Cheng's expression changed slightly after having lost his target. This speed was such that he could only see a thread of a black line flashing past. Alarm immediately flashed across his heart. In the past, Xiao Yan definitely did not possess such speed. It was impossible for his speed to be raised to such a degree even if he had advanced his strength.

As this thought flashed across his heart in a lightning-like manner, the long spear in Bai Cheng's hand suddenly changed directions and pierced explosively toward his back.

"Clang!"

A clear sound that carried some sparks shot out from within the arena. The long spear which Bai Cheng used to pierce behind him blocked the enormous black ruler. The powerful force contained on the black ruler pressed the long spear until it bent slightly.

"The physical strength of this fellow has also soared greatly. Just what is happening? Even if he advanced his level, there should not be such a great increase. Now, regardless of whether it is in terms of strength, speed, or reaction speed, this fellow appears to have completely transformed from his previous self." Bai Cheng's face immediately revealed some changes as he sensed the strength that was being transmitted from the long spear. His heart also appeared to have monstrous wild waves rolling within it.

Xiao Yan was naturally not bothered by the shock in Bai Cheng's heart. The heavy ruler in his hand carried an extremely suppressive rushing wind sound as it violently hacked down at Bai Cheng's arm. The originally extremely heavy ruler danced even more lively and trickily in his hand than the long spear in Bai Cheng's hand. Under this powerful and violent

sweeping movement, even Bai Cheng had appeared a little hectic due to him being unable to react in time.

However, Bai Cheng was, after all, a strong six star Dou Ling, and had gradually become steady under Xiao Yan's extremely heavy attacks. The powerful Dou Qi of a six star Dou Ling swarmed out in a mighty manner and received Xiao Yan's attack that contained an extremely great weight. Following his familiarity, Bai Cheng also began to retaliate intensely. The long spear waved and danced. It was just like a poisonous snake that was hidden under the yellow sand. It was tricky and vicious and each time it pierced toward Xiao Yan, it would strike for some fatal spot.

Two human figures rushed and flashed in the battleground. Green and yellow Dou Qi rendered the entire battle circle into a two-colored world. Each time the heavy ruler and the long spear collided, they would shake and form a rippling force that was visible to the naked eye. This ripple would spread out and threads of crack lines began repeatedly spreading all over the hard ground.

“Bang!”

The heavy ruler and the long spear were pressed on each other. Xiao Yan violently collided with Bai Cheng. As the wind spread, Bai Cheng hurriedly took a few steps back while Xiao Yan took four steps back. Clearly, Xiao Yan may have an advantage in his physical strength, but at the moment, when the other party used the powerful Dou Qi of a six star Dou Ling, he still ends up being weaker.

A ‘xu xi’ sound was involuntarily emitted from the viewing gallery upon the sight of Xiao Yan being in a disadvantaged situation. The members of the ‘White Gang’ borrowed the opportunity to let out ridicule and laughing curses.

“Humph, it is just brute force. It cannot even enter my eye.” Bai Cheng waved his long spear after having gained the advantage in the collision. He coldly laughed, “If you are still going to rely on this brute force after this, you should just roll down by yourself.”

The corner of Xiao Yan's mouth lifted into a cold smile when he heard

this. Under everyone's gaze, he abruptly inserted the heavy ruler into the ground. His hands swiftly formed various strange hand seals. Following the formation of the hand seals, hot green-colored flame abruptly curled up from within his body. The green-colored flame wrapped him until he was ablaze. An instant later, however, the hot flame suddenly shrank back and finally entered Xiao Yan's body in a lightning-like manner.

“Sky Fire Three Mysterious Change: Green Lotus Change!”

Xiao Yan cried out softly in his heart. His body immediately trembled. Wild and violent energy suddenly surged out explosively from the veins within his body. Finally, it became like a torrent of flood water that flowed to every corner of his entire body.

The corner of Xiao Yan's mouth was lifted as he sensed the Dou Qi within his body soar abruptly. His hand once again grabbed the hilt of the Heavy Xuan Ruler as he eyed Bai Cheng. He smiled and said, “Let's do this again!”

The moment Xiao Yan's words sounded, a ‘bang’ appeared. His body turned into a black line that rushed explosively toward Bai Cheng. Each time his feet landed, they would leave a half an inch deep footprints in the ground. That strong charging momentum was just like a human-shaped Magical Beast which possessed a great amount of charging force!

# Chapter 525: Fighting a Six Star Dou Ling

Xun Er and the others were aware that Xiao Yan could suddenly unleash an extremely great strength. Therefore, they did not feel much surprise when they saw that his current strength had greatly soared. However, Lin Xiuya and the rest from high above involuntarily emitted a shocked 'huh' sound. They, who possessed powerful strength, were naturally able to discover that Xiao Yan's current strength had nearly caught up with Bai Cheng. This kind of large increase, or leap of strength, really caused others to be astonished. After all, that was a total six star gap.

"This fellow, no wonder I felt a faint solemn feeling when I first met him. It is actually because he possesses such tactics." Lin Xiuya's eyes suddenly danced with an additional surprise within. Clearly, this eruption by Xiao Yan had exceeded his expectations.

Beside him, Yan Hao's eyes were staring intently at Xiao Yan below. From the looks of his expression, he appeared to have quite a great interest in the way Xiao Yan suddenly unleashed his strength. He also nodded slightly when he heard Lin Xiuya's words before his gaze moved up and finally landed at a place where it was a little dark. He could faintly hear an extremely soft surprised exclamation being emitted from that spot.

"This time around, Bai Cheng has indeed kicked a metal plate. He might end up handing over his ranking on the 'Strong Ranking.'" Yan Hao skimmed the corner of his mouth as he spoke with a gloating smile.

Lin Xiuya and the others laughed before they once again threw their gazes into the battle circle below.

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After Xiao Yan had displayed the 'Sky Fire Three Mysterious Change,' his strength has undoubtedly reached a plain where he was able to contend with Bai Cheng for a short period of time. When Bai Cheng saw Xiao Yan, whose Qi had suddenly soared, charge over, his cold smiling face involuntarily changed a couple of times. He also knew a little about Xiao



Yan being able to forcefully raise his strength. However, he did not really put that matter in his heart. From what he thought, this kind of method which forcefully increased one's strength was ultimately an unorthodox method. One would return to one's true form after the time limit had passed.

This disdain within his heart had begun to shake a little by the human figure in front, who was carrying lightning momentum in his attack. At this moment, Bai Cheng finally understood that he had truly underestimated Xiao Yan right from the beginning.

Bai Cheng clenched his teeth violently and tightly held the long spear in his hand. His eyes stared intently at Xiao Yan who was becoming increasingly close. A cold glint flashed in his eyes. He clearly knew what this battle meant for him. If he was to unluckily lose, his ranking on the 'Strong Ranking' might immediately be replaced by Xiao Yan. Moreover, even the reputation of his 'White Gang' would be reduced, resulting in a great decline in their position within the Inner Academy. Therefore, no matter how difficult it was to deal with the Xiao Yan in front of him, he had to use all means to defeat the latter today!

"What a wild and arrogant fellow. I shall let you see the true strength of an expert on the 'Strong Ranking' today! These mediocre tactics cause your confidence to be a little too full." Some cold sharpness drew by Xiao Yan's face. The dark-yellow Dou Qi was like a yellow river that flowed out from Bai Cheng's body unceasingly. Finally, it wrapped his entire body. The surface of the light cluster was like a flood that flowed slowly, much like swirling water that emitted a yellow-colored glow.

The yellow-colored Dou Qi light cluster trembled. It immediately unleashed a low roar under everyone's gazes. The long spear swiftly pierced out in a lightning-like manner. Each time the long spear pierced out, numerous afterimages would appear in front of him. The speed of Bai Cheng's shaking long spear was very frightening. In merely an instant, the afterimages of the long spear covered by the space in front of it. At this moment, Xiao Yan, who was rushing over like a Magical Beast instantly appeared just outside the blockade of the spear shadows.

“Hah!”

The dark-yellow long spear afterimages paused in mid-air. A strange cold glow flashed on the tip of the spear. Under the strengthening of the dark-yellow Dou Qi, each of these afterimages possessed the strength to penetrate rock walls. Bai Cheng watched Xiao Yan who was already in close proximity. A cold cry suddenly erupted. Following the sound of the cry, the dark-yellow long spear afterimages, that covered the area in front, suddenly shot out explosively. In an instant, the sharp rushing wind sound began humming within the battle circle, appearing extremely eye-piercing.

There were many spear afterimages. By being able to agglomerate so many afterimages in one go, it was sufficient to show the strength of Bai Cheng’s ability. A member of the ‘Strong Ranking’ did deserve such a reputation.

If it was an ordinary Dou Ling, it was likely that the person would end up scrambling around for awhile under this sharp attack of Bai Cheng. However, Xiao Yan’s fighting experience was not the slightest bit inferior to Bai Cheng. Additionally, due to him having displayed the ‘Sky Fire Three Mysterious Change,’ he also possessed the strength to contend with Bai Cheng head-on. Although the spear images flashed in front of his eyes and the breeze blew sternly, it did not cause Xiao Yan to show even the slightest sign of shrinking back. The enormous Heavy Xuan Ruler in his hand was abruptly lifted, and he immediately violently hacked it downward in an extremely plain manner.

“Break!”

The trace of the swing of the Heavy Xuan Ruler was extremely ordinary. There was not the slightest bit of fanciness within it. This ordinary hack, however, carried a matchless force that could split mountains and crack the land. The body of the ruler split the air and even left a faint black-colored trace in the air. A wild and violent wind formed under the ruler. Under this powerful pressure, the tough ground quietly cracked, forming a crack line. From this, one could see the strength of this current attack of Xiao Yan. Quite a number of people in the viewing gallery changed their expressions slightly upon seeing the great strength of this attack. This

intense fight was really a little exciting.

“Clang, clang...”

Numerous spear shadows, containing a sharp wind, hit the heavy ruler. They repeatedly erupted into the clear sound of metal colliding. The spear shadows swiftly disappeared. Only the swiftly spreading forceful ripples allowed one to know where the intense exchange erupted from.

A large portion of the spear images disappeared. In the end, merely a few spear images remained before finally giving up their senseless defense. The spear body stilled and a substance-like long spear tore through the air in a lightning-like manner. The sharp wind swiftly agglomerated on the tip of the lance. It violently pierced toward Xiao Yan's chest.

Xiao Yan narrowed his eyes. He agilely withdrew the heavy ruler in his hand. Immediately, the ruler stood heavily in front of him just like a dark-black shield. That dark -yellow long spear hit against the wide body of the ruler.

The moment the two came into contact, the body of the spear suddenly unleashed a powerful force. Under this force, Xiao Yan's feet was dragged along the ground and moved backward for a total of two to three meters before coming to a stop.

“Hmph.” Bai Cheng let out a cold snort after shaking and forcing Xiao Yan back. His hand that held the hilt of the spear shook slightly. The glow on the body of the spear suddenly became much brighter. An eye-piercing yellow-colored glow that was like a sun shone from within the battleground.

“Chi!”

As the yellow-colored glow became more intense, a yellow-colored energy sand snake suddenly rushed out. Its savage enormous mouth ferociously collided with the heavy ruler.

“Bang!”

A great and loud explosive sound erupted from the point where the two

collided. A ripple force visible to the naked eye swiftly spread out. Numerous crack lines spread repeatedly from the hard ground under Xiao Yan's feet.

"Get lost!" Bai Cheng's palm heavily struck the hilt of the spear. The strength of a six star Dou Ling was unleashed without reserve at this moment. An incomparably powerful force struck the ruler's body. With a powerful lift by the tip of the spear, the dark-black heavy ruler emitted a 'xiu' sound and left Xiao Yan's hands under everyone's eyes. Finally, it rolled a couple of times in mid-air before being inserted into the ground outside the battle circle.

The viewing gallery was in an uproar the moment the heavy ruler left Xiao Yan's hand. Other than Xun Er and the others who understood Xiao Yan very well, even the members of 'Pan's Gate' involuntarily tightened their clenched fists. Their faces were filled with anxiety.

"Just how are you going to fight without your weapon?" The attack which contained all his strength finally got rid of Xiao Yan's weapon. In an instant, Bai Cheng saw that victory was within close proximity as he laughed out loud in a high-spirited manner. The long spear in his hand did not pause as it continued to pierce explosively toward Xiao Yan's chest.

Xiao Yan knit his eyebrows slightly when the heavy ruler left his hands. It must be said that Bai Cheng's spear techniques were even sharper and more vicious than Bai Shan's. The long spear was like lightning. When Xiao Yan sensed the faint piercing pain feeling that rose from his chest, the silver-colored lightning surfaced from under his feet. His body trembled slightly and an extremely vague afterimage remained on the spot. His body, on the other hand, had appeared over ten meters from the original spot.

The long spear pierced through the afterimage in a lightning-like manner. It stirred slightly and struck it until it turned into nothingness. Bai Cheng raised his head and eyed Xiao Yan who was over ten meters away, "Are you still not going to admit defeat? If you get on your knees and beg for mercy, I can show you some. Otherwise, knives and spears do not have eyes. Do not blame this senior for being vicious if I were to cut or

break your arm or leg later.” The Inner Academy did not restrict one from using a killer move in a place like the Fighting Arena. In normal circumstances, however, most people would hold back a little unless the relationship between both parties was extremely terrible. After all, no matter how one put it, this was an academy and not a true bloody Fighting Arena.

Xiao Yan ignored the proud Bai Cheng. He randomly glanced at the heavy ruler outside of the arena before shaking his body slightly, sensing the flood of powerful Dou Qi. It had suddenly begun to flow at this moment only after it had escaped the strain of the Heavy Xuan Ruler.

Xiao Yan turned his gaze and eyed the dark and solemn ice-cold eyes belonging to Bai Cheng. He laughed softly, but did not open his mouth to speak. Silver glow once again appeared on his feet. He immediately stepped softly and his body was just like a ghost as it suddenly appeared beside Bai Cheng. His fist, was covered in a hot green-colored Dou Qi carried a hot wind and sharpness as it violently smashed toward Bai Cheng’s head.

The frightening speed that Xiao Yan had displayed at this moment caused Bai Cheng’s eyes to shrink suddenly. His head leaned back as a reflexive action, and the fist carrying hot wind drew by his face, causing it to feel a fiery hot pain.

“This fellow... why is that that his speed has suddenly soared again?” The black shadow that flashed in front of his eyes caused a monstrous startling wave to rise in Bai Cheng’s heart as he scolded in a flustered and exasperated manner.

Not having understood Xiao Yan, Bai Cheng naturally did not know that when Xiao Yan detached from the Heavy Xuan Ruler, his fighting strength would be completely unleashed. For other people, losing their weapon may be a fatal blow, but for Xiao Yan, that was equivalent to helping remove a kind of restraint from him.

The Xiao Yan who was holding the Heavy Xuan Ruler was not frightening. The unarmed and barehanded Xiao Yan was a true fighting

machine.

# Chapter 526: Fighting Medicine (Drugs?)

The wind from the palm rubbed past the front of Bai Cheng. However, before Bai Cheng had the chance to rejoice within his heart, Xiao Yan's elbow suddenly smashed down violently. The sharp wind gathered around Xiao Yan's elbow, and the ear-piercing sound caused people to rub their ears since they were being shaken with pain.

Bai Cheng held the long spear tightly with his right hand and got it to make contact with the ground, stabilizing his body that was leaning back. His hand hurriedly charged forward before finally coming into heavy contact with Xiao Yan's elbow. Forceful ripples spread out and the faint 'ka cha' sound of bones cracking appeared.

Bai Cheng completely felt the powerful strength contained in Xiao Yan's elbow as his fist made contact with it. His expression immediately became pale. Under this powerful force, his body that was tilted back was forcefully smashed into the ground. Threads of crack lines began spreading from the spot where he fell.

Xiao Yan's face was indifferent. He did not pause for even a moment. Green-colored Dou Qi swiftly agglomerated as he immediately kicked at the head of Bai Cheng, who had fallen on the ground. From his stance, if his kick were to connect, Bai Cheng would at the very least become unconscious on the spot even given his strength.

Bai Cheng's entire body erupted in cold sweat as he faced the sharp wind that was kicked toward his face. At that moment, he could not be bothered about appearing awkward. His body rolled on the ground and narrowly dodged this attack from Xiao Yan.

Less than a minute had passed in the battleground since the heavy ruler had left Xiao Yan until the current miserable rolling of Bai Cheng. However, this situation which was completely different from everyone's expectations caused the people in the viewing gallery to be completely stunned. Those members of the 'White Gang' who were originally laughing in a mocking manner were just like ducks with their necks being

squeezed. They now emitted a hoarse 'ah' sound from their throats, and were no longer laughing wildly like they did earlier.

Compared to the duck-like dry cries of the members of 'White Gang,' the side where the members of 'Pan's Gate' stood began to cheer loudly. Originally, they thought that Xiao Yan would completely descend into a disadvantage after losing his heavy ruler. It was really unexpected that he actually made a big comeback, beating Bai Cheng, who was supposed to have gained the upperhand, until he was rolling all over the ground. This unexpected situation caused the tensed faced members of 'Pan's Gate' to involuntarily let out waves of cheers. Some of those who were impulsive even returned the ridicule and laughing curses back to the members of 'White Gang,' who had been acting triumphant earlier, infuriating them until their faces turned green.

"Xiao Yan's closed range combat is quite strong. From the strength and speed which he attacked, it appears that he is even stronger than when he was wielding the black ruler earlier?" High above the Fighting Arena, Yan Hao involuntarily spoke in a somewhat surprised manner after seeing Xiao Yan erupt in an instant.

"He is not just a little stronger." Lin Xiuya knit his brows slightly. He could vaguely sense an even more powerful Qi after the heavy ruler left his hand. He thought a little in his heart before his gaze turned toward the Heavy Xuan Ruler, which had fallen outside of the battleground. He softly said, "I think that the problem should be on this ruler."

Yan Hao and the rest reacted upon hearing Lin Xiuya's reminder. Yan Hao recalled how Xiao Yan's strength soared after the heavy ruler left his hand, and immediately nodded his head after coming to a sudden understanding.

"This fellow is really unexpected in every way."

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Bai Cheng took advantage of his position to leap to his feet after his body rolled miserably on the ground once. When he heard the laughter from the viewing gallery, his face involuntarily changed between green



and white. A long while later, it once again returned to its gloomy look from before. His eyes were icy-cold as he eyed Xiao Yan and said in a dark manner, “Good fellow, you actually still have this move. I have really underestimated you.”

Xiao Yan extended his hands slightly in front of him. He let out a long breath. Following that carefree hand to hand combat earlier, the potential strength within his body appeared to have awoken at this moment, causing him to have a comfortable feeling that gave him the urge to face the sky to roar. This battle had quite the benefit for Xiao Yan, who had just advanced his strength.

“You had a time when you viewed me seriously?” Xiao Yan tilted his head slightly as he let out a mocking smile. Before the other party replied, the silver glow under his feet flashed. His human figure once again appeared beside Bai Cheng in a ghost-like manner. Carrying a sharp wind, his fist, elbow, legs and other parts of his body that could be used to attack were all used at this instant. Numerous afterimages remained in mid-air. They carried a humming sound from the wind as he threw an unceasing number of blows on the fighting platform, like a wild wind.

Since he had the experience from the last attack, Bai Cheng was no longer as lost as he was when faced with Xiao Yan’s wild and violent attacks. The long spear in his hand danced and he was able to see some afterimages of the attack coming down at him.

Two human figures flashed and moved within the battle circle. The green-colored and dark-yellow Dou Qi emitted thunder-like explosions each time they collided. As the force spread, numerous crack lines on the ground were swiftly spreading out at a speed visible to the naked eye.

“Bang, bang!”

The low and soft sounds of collision were repeatedly emitted from the battleground. In the end, one could only vaguely see two blurry clusters of light figures due to the both of them doing their utmost to unleash their Dou Qi. Powerful pressuring force pressed on the bodies of the audience over ten meters away, causing them to feel that their breathing was

unsmooth.

Quite a number of people on the viewing gallery were quietly speechless as they eyed the incomparably ferocious collisions. Just looking at this exchange by the both of them, they were actually at a stage where they were equally matched. This caused some people to be stunned. Bai Cheng's reputation in the Inner Academy may not be comparable to that of Lin Xiuya and the others, but no matter how one put it, he was also an expert on the 'Strong Ranking.' His strength could enter the top tier level even when placed in the entire Inner Academy. Now, however, Xiao Yan, the new student who had entered the Inner Academy less than half a year ago, was actually able to fight with him until such a stage without appearing to be losing. This achievement really caused some of the students who had entered the Inner Academy earlier than Xiao Yan to feel ashamed.

As the fight entered into a white-hot stage, the noise from the viewing gallery also became much softer. Many people molded cold sweat in their palms as they eyed the flashing of the two clusters of light. At this moment, both parties had already completely unleashed their strength. If one's movements were slightly sluggish at any point, it was likely that his opponent would grab the opening and unleash a decisive attack.

Actually, now that the fight had progressed to such a stage, it was likely that Xiao Yan's reputation would not suffer too much of a blow even if he were to lose. After all, no matter how one put it, Bai Cheng was an older student who had been in the Inner Academy for two to three years. Being able to fight with Bai Cheng to the point where they were evenly matched despite having only entered the Inner Academy less than half a year ago, Xiao Yan's ability was sufficient enough to cause most of the people in the Inner Academy to look at him with admiration. On the other hand, the burden that Bai Cheng obtained from this kind of battle result far exceeded what Xiao Yan faced. Hence, he clearly understood in his heart that he must not end up in a draw with Xiao Yan in this battle. Otherwise, he would be using his reputation to let Xiao Yan gain an achievement.

A dark, vicious glint flashed across Bai Cheng's eyes. He could not help

but feel a little anxious in his heart. Originally, he thought that it would not be difficult to finish off Xiao Yan, who had just advanced to the Dou Ling class, should he unleash all his strength. However, he did not expect to be dragged by Xiao Yan into a deadlock. No matter how sharp his attack was, the latter would be just like a chewing gum that firmly stuck to him. The physical attacks that contained a powerful force rained unceasingly, causing him to be unable to display the long spear attacks that he specialized in. Bai Cheng could not help but show some anxiety under this kind of entangled situation.

“I must defeat this little bastard no matter what! Looks like I can only use that thing.” A thought once again flashed across Bai Cheng’s heart. His face suddenly became much more ferocious. His right hand held the long spear tightly as he resisted Xiao Yan. His left hand was stretched out and a purple-red medicinal pill rolled down into his hands from within his sleeves. He immediately and swiftly stuffed it into his mouth.

The moment the medicinal pill entered his mouth, a strange purple-red color instantly swarmed onto Bai Cheng’s face. A low roar was emitted from his throat as the dark-yellow Dou Qi rising from his body suddenly surged out uncontrollably. There appeared to be a faint purple-red color mixed in with the dark-yellow Dou Qi.

Xiao Yan’s fist heavily smashed on the rod of the spear. The rod portion of the spear was bent slightly. Immediately, it abruptly unleashed an extremely powerful strength. Under the reflection of this force, Xiao Yan could not react in time and could only take a step back. However, just as his feet stabilized, the yellow figure in front of him flashed forward Bai Cheng, whose speed had suddenly soared greatly, waved the spear with his strength and heavily brandished the rod of the spear against Xiao Yan’s hand.

“Bang!”

A low and deep sound appeared. An intense pain was felt on Xiao Yan’s hand. Bai Cheng’s sudden increase in strength shook Xiao Yan, and forced him to step back until he was five to six meters away. Moreover, this heavy blow also caused Xiao Yan’s expression to be a little paler.

The sudden appearance of such a change in the originally anxious battleground caused the people in the viewing gallery to be a little surprised. They were startled when their gazes saw Bai Cheng, whose expression had become a lot more purplish-red. Some of the sharp-eyed people were the first to shout out loud, “Bai Cheng consumed a medicinal pill!”

The entire place appeared to have begun to tremble upon hearing this shouting. Although consuming medicinal pills within the Fighting Arena was not against the rules, the opponent of Bai Cheng was merely a new student who had not even been in the Inner Academy for half a year no matter how one put it. Consuming a medicinal pill to raise one’s strength in a fight with an opponent who was originally weaker really caused people to despise him.

Xiao Yan’s footsteps swiftly stepped on the ground. He resolved the force and lifted his head to coldly watch Bai Cheng, whose face was not only purple-red but some purple red color also surfaced in his eyes. He knit his brows slightly as he coldly smiled and said, “It is a not a bad medicinal pill to actually be able to raise one’s strength to this level in one go.”

“The victor is the king and the loser is the bandit. In a true life and death battle, no one will care about how the battle was fought. The ending is the most important!” Bai Cheng darkly said. Since things had developed to this extent, he was too lazy to search for an excuse. Currently, he could only beat Xiao Yan half to death. If he had the chance, he even thought about crippling Xiao Yan. Ever since this fellow had entered the Inner Academy, Bai Cheng never had a day of peace.

“Senior Bai Cheng has spoken well.” Xiao Yan watched Bai Cheng in front of him. A moment later, Xiao Yan smiled and nodded against everyone’s expectations. He immediately rolled his fingers and a sleek, dark-red, round medicinal pill appeared between his fingers. He raised his eyes slightly and eyed Bai Cheng on the opposite side as he smiled and said, “Since Senior Bai Cheng has put it this way, Xiao Yan also cannot correct it. I have yet to try the effects of this ‘Dragon Strength Pill’ ever

since I refined it. Today, I shall let Senior Bai Cheng try it.”

Bai Cheng’s eyes stared intently at the dark-red medicinal pill between Xiao Yan’s fingers. His face instantly became ugly when he heard the name of the medicinal pill.

# Chapter 527: A Powerful Strike

‘Dragon Strength Pill.’ Bai Cheng was not unfamiliar with the name of this medicinal pill. It was a tier five medicinal pill that even Han Xian could not refine back then. One could get a glimpse of just how great its effect would be by the appearance of those Elders back then. The medicinal pill that he had consumed earlier was named ‘Beast Strength Pill.’ It was merely a medicinal pill that had barely reached that of the fourth tier and it had an effect that was similar to that of the ‘Dragon Strength Pill.’ Both of them could increase the strength of the person who consumed it by a little for a short period of time. However, the ‘Dragon Strength Pill’ had a degree of increase that was even stronger than the other pill. Hence, Bai Cheng’s expression immediately turned extremely ugly when he saw that Xiao Yan had actually taken out the ‘Dragon Strength Pill.’

“You... are actually willing?” The corner of Bai Cheng’s mouth quivered slightly. One could not differentiate whether it was fear or bitterness in his voice.

“Ke ke, since Senior Bai Cheng is willing to take out a medicinal pill to consume, I, as an alchemist, cannot lose face, no?” Xiao Yan exposed his teeth in a smile. The white shiny teeth caused a coldness to form in Bai Cheng’s bones. Only now did the latter understand that this fellow in front of him, who appeared to be friendly and kind, was even more frightening than anyone else should he really become mad.

The ‘Dragon Strength Pill’ may be valuable, but Xiao Yan already possessed its medicinal formula. As long as he gathered all the necessary medicinal ingredients, it would not be considered too difficult for him to refine it. Moreover, Bai Cheng’s strength was indeed quite strong. This was a point that even Xiao Yan had to admit. Even after displaying the ‘Sky Fire Three Mysterious Change,’ he merely came to a stalemate with Bai Cheng. If this stalemate were to continue, he would be the one who was at the greatest disadvantage.

The ‘Sky Fire Three Mysterious Change’ may be able to increase a

person's strength greatly, but there was a time limit to it. Once the time limit passed, Xiao Yan's strength would decline greatly. At that time, the situation would be even worse. Now that Bai Cheng had taken the lead in using a medicinal pill, it did indeed give Xiao Yan one additional path. Originally, he planned to endure a little longer before displaying the 'Angry Buddha Flame,' a decisive attack. However, Xiao Yan did not really want to display one of his triumph cards in front of so many eyes. Although there were quite a number of people who had heard the rumors of him having an extremely powerful fire lotus Dou Techniques, many people had only heard of it and had not witnessed it with their eyes. There were too many strong people in this Fighting Arena and quite a number of people with sharp eyes. It would naturally be best that he used less of his trump cards at this time. He might even be able to obtain the effect of catching his opponent off guard if he meet a true opponent in a future fight.

Therefore, Xiao Yan was happy instead of angry when he saw that Bai Cheng took the lead to consume a medicinal pill. This way, he also had a sufficient excuse to use the 'Dragon Strength Pill.' He could even give Bai Cheng tit for a tat.

"This fellow Bai Cheng... he really seeks his bad luck by himself." Everyone in the viewing gallery could not help but sigh quietly in their hearts when they saw the ugly expression on Bai Cheng's face.

Xiao Yan rubbed the sleek and round medicinal pill between two fingers. Under everyone's gazes, he stuffed the 'Dragon Strength Pill' in his mouth and chewed slowly. His throat moved and he swallowed it into his stomach. As the medicinal pill entered his body, a wave of boiling hot flow instantly began to surge out from within his body. Finally, it became like a surging flood that gushed through his veins. Xiao Yan could feel his body instantly fill with strength wherever the boiling hot flow passed. That extremely filled and comfortable feeling gave Xiao Yan the impulse to raise his head to the sky and let out a long roar.

Xiao Yan twisted his body. An extremely clear bone cracking sound began to appear throughout the battleground. The unceasing sound

continued for two to three minutes. Moreover Xiao Yan, after consuming the 'Dragon Strength Pill,' vaguely discovered that Bai Cheng on the opposite side had become a little smaller. He was immediately startled. Lowering his head, he looked at his body and was stunned to discover that it was not that Bai Cheng had become smaller rather his own body had become a lot taller and larger at this moment than what it was earlier. In the past, Xiao Yan's body appeared to be somewhat skinny but his current body size was nearly comparable to that large built Yan Hao.

This change in Xiao Yan's body size also caused everyone in the viewing gallery to be stunned. They eyed the numerous small snake-like bulging green veins on the former's hand and involuntarily wiped off some cold sweat. Were these the effects of a tier five medicinal pill? It appeared that the medicinal effects were so strong that they were a little overboard, no?

Of course, on top of those exclamations, there were quite a number of people who could not resist sighing continuously at the prodigal behavior of Xiao Yan. That was a tier five medicinal pill. Was it not overkill to use it to deal with Bai Cheng?

Xiao Yan tightened his fist and threw a few 'hu hu' punches in front of him. He did not add even the slightest bit of Dou Qi to them. By just relying on the strength of his physical body, Xiao Yan was able to hear an explosive sound vibrate through the air. Each time his fist was thrown out, a shapeless air cannonball would be compressed and violently shot out due to the great strength of the wind. When these air cannonballs landed on the ground, they would immediately leave a hole that was neither big nor small amid a low and deep sound.

"It is indeed worthy of being a tier five medicinal pill. Its medicinal effects are actually quite frightening." The powerful energy that was gushing out of his body in a flood-like manner caused Xiao Yan to have an impulse to carry something and beat it up viciously. He raised his head and his eyes landed on Bai Cheng in front of him with ill intent. He let out a cold smile and the silver glow appeared under his feet. With a gentle sway, his body appeared in front of Bai Cheng in a ghost-like manner. This speed was a little more frightening than what it was earlier.



Bai Cheng had already experienced just how frightening Xiao Yan's speed was. Therefore, his heart had remained cautious at all times. It was due to this that his body had suddenly tensed the moment that Xiao Yan's body moved. The long spear that was covered by dark-yellow Dou Qi in his hand immediately and viciously pierced explosively toward Xiao Yan who had appeared in front of him.

After having consumed the 'Dragon Strength Pill,' Xiao Yan discovered that not only did his strength soar explosively, but his eyesight had also become much keener. Although Bai Cheng's long spear was hidden within Dou Qi, making it difficult for someone to identify its attacking path, Xiao Yan was still able to sense it. He leaned his head toward the left and very narrowly avoided the sharp wind from the spear. At the same time, he extended his hand in a lightning-like manner and grabbed the pole of the spear that had just passed by his ear. The incomparably strong strength in his hand caused the long spear, that contained powerful Dou Qi, to be unable to move by even the slightest.

Bai Cheng's expression involuntarily became much gloomier when his long spear was grabbed. He rotated his right hand and dark-yellow Dou Qi swiftly formed in his palm. Finally, he suppressed it rapidly and it instantly formed a cluster of brown-colored light the size of his palm. His mouth let out a sharp cry and the light cluster violently struck toward Xiao Yan.

"Mysterious Mud Condensing Spin!"

This condensed brown-colored light cluster clearly possessed a great amount of offensive strength. Although its distance to Xiao Yan was at least a couple of feet, it had already caused an extremely sharp rushing wind sound to appear within this short distance. Dark-yellow light arcs formed on the sunken surface of the light cluster. The air in front of the cluster of light appeared to have been stripped away at this moment.

The brown-colored light cluster swiftly expanded within those dark-black eyes. Xiao Yan did not shrink back even a little. The strength which filled his body needed to be vented out. Therefore, Xiao Yan did not have the slightest hesitation when faced with this sharp attack by Bai Cheng. His palm-leaf like giant palm was tightly clenched into a fist that heavily

smashed toward the brown-colored light glow.

Xiao Yan still did not use the slightest bit of Dou Qi. However, an ear-piercing explosion began to sound within the battleground much like firecrackers.

“Bang!”

The short few feet of distance was covered in the blink of an eye. Both of them did not have the slightest bit of time to think when the fist and palm collided heavily together. A clear and loud explosion immediately sounded in this Fighting Arena, much like a thunder. A powerful ripple force began swiftly spreading from the point where the two made contact. The hard ground began rolling around like a field plowed by a bull.

The energy ripple spread out. Bai Cheng’s expression turned white. A wild and violent force that was transmitted from his palm nearly caused his entire arm to descend into a numb state. His arm trembled. At that moment, he could not be bothered about the long spear. His feet swiftly withdrew. Each time a foot fell, he would leave behind a half an inch deep footprint in the ground. This continued for dozens of steps before he completely resolved the force. He halted his footsteps and a sweetness swarmed into his throat, which was swallowed by him.

The dust that spread all over the battleground scattered. Xiao Yan’s enormous body was revealed. Looking at the spot where he was standing, it appeared that he had only taken a single step back. The dark-yellow long spear in his hand told everyone just who had the upperhand in the intense exchange earlier...

Xiao Yan held the dark-yellow long spear in his hand. He randomly glanced at the ugly expression of Bai Cheng. With a careless throw, he threw the long spear out of the battleground. No one knew whether it was on purpose or otherwise, but the spot where the long spear landed was coincidentally the spot where Bai Cheng had sent the Heavy Xuan Ruler flying to earlier.

“Ke ke, looks like that medicinal pill of Senior Bai Cheng’s appears to be inferior to that of the ‘Dragon Strength Pill.’” Xiao Yan laughed at Bai

Cheng. His smile, however, was void of any warmth and was as cold as ice.

Bai Cheng pulled at the corner of his mouth slightly. This arrogant attitude of Xiao Yan caused him to be enraged to the point of spitting fire. However, on top of being furious, he could not help but feel some regret. If he did not consume a medicinal pill, he could borrow the opportunity to ridicule the other party using the 'Dragon Strength Pill'. However, he was currently just like a mute eating rhizome. He could only swallow the bitterness that he had searched out for himself.

"The fight is yet to be over." A dark and cold snort was emitted. At this moment, Bai Cheng could only go all out in the fight. The dark-yellow Dou Qi surged out of his body and rotated unceasingly around the surface of his body. A moment later, it actually agglomerated into a substance-like deep-yellow armor.

The defense of ground affinity Dou Qi was quite good. The Dou Qi Armor that Bai Cheng agglomerated with his current strength had a defensive strength that was so powerful that it was frightening. Faced with the powerful strength of Xiao Yan, this kind of ground affinity Dou Qi Armor had quite a good counter effect.

Bai Cheng merely needed less than ten seconds to agglomerate his armor. The instant the armor took shape, Xiao Yan once again moved his ghost-like figure. The sharp wind from his fist smashed angrily toward Bai Cheng.

"Bang!"

Xiao Yan's fist heavily smashed against the yellow-colored Dou Qi Armor and the yellow-colored flowing water-like energy fluctuated swiftly. Most of the energy was received by it in a head-on manner. The remaining small portion was actually reflected back toward Xiao Yan.

"Deng deng!"

Bai Cheng took another two steps back before stabilizing his body. His expression returned to normal as he raised his head. He smiled and said to Xiao Yan, "Your brutal strength is quite good, but don't you know that ground affinity Dou Qi Armor has the greatest defense? I may perhaps

have difficulty obtaining victory in this battle, but it will definitely be impossible for you to defeat me even if you have the 'Dragon Strength Pill!'"

"Is that so? In that case, I shall allow you to see just how I am going to break this tortoise shell of yours!" A cold ridicule raised in Xiao Yan's eyes. Under everyone's gaze, Xiao Yan stepped forward. His body once again appeared in front of Bai Cheng. He tightly clenched his fist and pulled it back to his lower abdomen. An instant later, it suddenly struck out as a cold smile spread from the corner of Xiao Yan's mouth.

"Octane Blast!"

As the fist moved, a change suddenly occurred to its strength. An incomparably sharp wind was formed on his fist. An ear-piercing explosive sound could clearly be heard throughout the entire Fighting Arena!

At this moment, shock and fear finally surfaced on Bai Cheng's face, which had contained a cold smile just a moment ago.

# Chapter 528: Defeating the Opponent

Xiao Yan's fist had become a little larger after swallowing the 'Dragon Strength Pill.' Adding the increase in strength from the 'Octane Blast' Dou Technique to that of the medicinal effect, the frightening wind that was contained on Xiao Yan's fist nearly caused the faces of most of the people in the viewing gallery to be filled with shock. This kind of strength was something that even some people who had reached that of a seven or eight star elite Dou Ling might have difficulty displaying.

The wind formed on Xiao Yan's fist. The air in front of him was also completely dispersed under this strike of his. His fist plowed through the empty space and vaguely contained a hot wind. A faint shadow of a fist was left behind wherever the fist passed.

Before the fist truly made contact with Bai Cheng, the air, that had been suppressed because of the strong and violent wind, had already shot heavily toward the thick dark-yellow Dou Qi Armor. A clear explosion immediately sounded and a dent the size of a palm appeared on the armor. However, the appearance of the dent merely lasted for an instant before it was completely repaired by the swiftly flowing Dou Qi.

This attack of Xiao Yan caused the sharp wind from the fist to lock the air around Bai Cheng, causing him to have nowhere to dodge. Therefore, the latter could only widen his eyes, which were filled with fear, as he eyed the enormous fist swiftly magnify in his eyes.

Under this punch which contained nearly all of Xiao Yan's strength, everyone in the viewing gallery had lowered their voices as their eyes followed the repeated movement of the fist.

"Bang!"

Xiao Yan's fist that contained a strong force finally collided with the thick Dou Qi Armor under the eyes of everyone present, who had halted their breathing. The moment they came into contact silence ensued. Immediately, a thunder-like explosion erupted from the battleground.

The instant the thunder-like explosion sounded, the most terrifying

forceful ripple, since the beginning of the fight, surged out from the point where the fist and the Dou Qi armor came into contact.

This circular ripple was visible to the naked eye. The ripple expanded at a rapid pace, and in the few blinks of an eye, it scattered out from the battle circle. It gradually turned into oblivion after reaching a distance of dozens of meters away.

The ripple force did not cause crack lines to immediately form on the battleground like it did a couple of times before. Instead, numerous destructive energies, much like time bombs reaching their detonation time, erupted under the numerous shocked gazes after a few seconds of silence.

“Bang!”

A few seconds after the ripple force spread out, the originally quiet battleground appeared to have been struck by a bomb. In a short instant, the rock ground surface burst apart. Crack lines as thick as one’s arm spread out in all directions while fist-sized rock fragments shot everywhere, causing the people in the viewing gallery to hurriedly dodge them. At this moment, this extremely hard battleground had completely turned into ruins!

Smoke rose. Only the spot in the battleground where Xiao Yan and Bai Cheng were located did not move. Xiao Yan’s fist was still tightly pasted on the latter’s Dou Qi Armor. His fist appeared to be steady, but without strength. Following an increase in the trembling, the Dou Qi Armor became even more illusory, allowing everyone to understand that this armor with extremely shocking defense appeared to have entered the stage where it was about to burst apart.

A thread of bright-red blood seeped out from the corner of Bai Cheng’s mouth. Although the armor was there to withstand most of the strength, that faint force still caused him to be a little wounded.

Bai Cheng grit his teeth. His eyes were furious and cold as he eyed Xiao Yan in front of him. He used all his strength to push the little remaining Dou Qi in his body into the Dou Qi Armor, causing the illusory armor to

once again become more substance-like. He clearly understood in his heart that the remaining force on Xiao Yan's fist would cause him to descend into a serious injury should his Dou Qi Armor disappear at this moment! Therefore, he must endure even if he had to go all out and stake his life!

As long as he managed to endure, he may perhaps have the hope of victory. This was because he clearly understood that Xiao Yan was likely to have already reached the point where he was running out of steam after having displayed such a powerful blow.

Now, it depended on who could endure for a longer time!

Water-like energy swiftly rippled over the Dou Qi Armor. Bai Cheng's original strength was far stronger than Xiao Yan and the Qi Technique which he practiced was of the Middle Xuan class. The degree of Dou Qi recovery by a Qi Technique of this class was quite strong. Therefore, Bai Cheng actually felt like he might be able to endure.

"Hei, Xiao Yan... cough... looks like even the heavens stand on my side." Bai Cheng spoke in a hoarse voice. A smile involuntarily surfaced on his pale white face as he felt the strength on Xiao Yan's fist gradually become weaker with the flow of time.

"That may not be the case." Xiao Yan raised his head slightly. A cold smile lifted on his face. An uneasiness immediately rose in Bai Cheng's heart when he saw this smile. Due to the weakening of the wind from the fist, the surrounding locked space had disappeared at this moment. The latter immediately gave a violent kick toward Xiao Yan's throat.

Xiao Yan threw his hand down and blocked Bai Cheng's feet. His body flashed and appeared on a piece of cracked ground. Perhaps it was due to his strength being exhausted, but Xiao Yan's current speed was obviously much slower compared to before.

"Hee hee, why? Have you reached your limit? In that case, next... what are you doing?" Bai Cheng's eyes brightened when he saw Xiao Yan's speed. However, before he said all that he wanted to say, he saw that Xiao Yan had suddenly extended his palm toward him from a distance.

Immediately, the uneasiness in his heart grew even greater as he cried out sternly.

“I’m sorry. Senior Bai Cheng, it is over. I shall help you sit on that position of yours on the ‘Strong Ranking.’” The corner of Xiao Yan’s mouth lifted into a cold smile. The hand which he used to face Bai Cheng was suddenly clenched. In a deep voice, he said, “Explode!”

Xiao Yan’s voice had just sounded when a sudden, deep, muffled explosion could abruptly be heard by everyone whose heads were still completely at a loss. Everyone’s eyes hurriedly followed the explosion and moved before finally becoming stunned as they stopped at where Bai Cheng was. The latter’s face was suddenly as pale as a sheet. That vaguely visible Dou Qi Armor that was originally on his body had completely burst apart. His clothes under the Dou Qi Armor had also shattered. A blood-red, eye-piercing wound appeared on his chest under the gazes of everyone. Looking at the situation of the injury, it did not appear to be an external injury. Instead, it appeared to be created by collisions from inside his body.

Bai Cheng’s expression was pale white. He lowered his head with some difficulty and eyed the blood imprint on his chest. Earlier, he had sensed an extremely obscure hidden force secretly erupting from his body. The eruption of this thread of hidden force completely caused him to enter a seriously injured condition!

“Grug!”

“You... you...”

A mouthful of fresh, bright-red blood was wildly vomited out, dyeing the already ruined battleground until it appeared extremely eye-piercing. He stared intently at the somewhat pale white face of Xiao Yan. Bai Cheng pointed his finger at the latter and said ‘you’ for a long time. Finally, he did not manage to spit out another word. His feet moved a couple of times trying to maintain his balance before he collapsed under numerous shocked gazes.

The entire Fighting Arena descended into a strange silence as they eyed



Bai Cheng who had fainted. Many people could not recover. A six star expert Dou Ling whose name was on the 'Strong Ranking' was actually defeated by the hands of a new student who had not even been at the Inner Academy for half a year? Although some people had guessed this since the start of the fight, everyone still felt some disbelief when the fact appeared in front of them.

Xiao Yan covered his mouth and let out a couple of intense cough in the quiet atmosphere. The intense battle earlier had exhausted him greatly. Moreover, due to him having used the 'Sky Fire Three Mysterious Change' and swallowing the 'Dragon Strength Pill,' his entire body emitted a tired feeling the moment his tensed mind relaxed.

The silence was broken by Xiao Yan's coughing sound. Quickly following this a thunder-like cheer suddenly erupted. The members of 'Pan's Gate' emitted loud, wild laughter at this moment. The numerous elated roars gathered together and shot to the clouds.

"Roar! Chief, you are good!"

"Chief, you are the strongest! Oh yeah!"

Compared to the wild joy of the members of 'Pan's Gate,' the members of 'White Gang,' who were still incomparably arrogant at the start, had become feeble as their faces turned yellow. They no longer dared to let out any ridiculing curses.

Being infected by the wild atmosphere from the members of 'Pan's Gate,' the other people in the audiences gently clapped their hands. The soul-stirring fight earlier was enough to give this clap, from their hearts, to these victors.

Hu Jia and Wu Hao also heaved a heavy sigh of relief at this moment. They eyed Xiao Yan below and nodded their heads slightly. He was indeed worthy of being a person that caused them to willingly accept defeat. His actions really caused people's blood to boil within their hearts.

Xun Er agilely moved her body and appeared beside Xiao Yan. She gently supported him. When her gaze saw his pale-white face, she involuntarily said with some heartache, "Are you alright?"

Xiao Yan smiled and shook his head. He patted Xun Er's head and indicated that he was fine before his gaze glanced at the unconscious Bai Cheng. When he had turned around and was just about to leave, his expression slightly changed. He suddenly raised his head and eyed a certain spot outside the battleground in the Fighting Arena. There was a sharp overbearing aura spreading out from that spot, and had faintly covered Xiao Yan's body.

"May I know which senior views Xiao Yan as an eyesore? I may currently be injured, but I will definitely take you on if you want to fight!" Xiao Yan's eyes slowly turned cold as he spoke in an indifferent voice.

The noisiness of the arena suddenly ceased when everyone heard Xiao Yan's voice. Numerous gazes followed Xiao Yan's sight and looked over before eventually stopping on dark spot somewhere high above. The Fighting Arena did not lack strong people. Their faces involuntarily changed a little after sensing the overbearing and sharp force seeping out from that spot.

"You are quite bold."

A tall, large person slowly walked out from the dark corner under the focus of everyone's gazes. His body leaped out and finally landed heavily on the battleground like a cannonball. Due to the strong and violent manner in which his body landed, it resulted in the enormous rock that his leg made contact with erupting in numerous crack lines.

The tall and large figure slowly walked toward Xiao Yan. That overbearing aura carried a pressure, which caused one's breathing to become dull, enveloped the entire battleground.

Xiao Yan's eyes were ice-cold as he eyed this tall, large man with an unusually overbearing aura in front of him. His eyes narrowed. "Tyrant Spear Liu Qing?"

# Chapter 529: A Slap

The man who appeared in the battleground had a tall and large body which was not much different from the ape-like body of Yan Hao. He wore a Chinese garment, and had a resolute face. His eyebrows were quite thick, and he was carrying a dark-black heavy spear that was as tall as him on his back. This black-colored long spear was longer than any spear Xiao Yan had ever seen before. This spear also carried a sharp tyrant-like aura, much like its owner.

The main character of the arena appeared to have changed to this person the moment he appeared. This kind of sharp aura was something that no one dared to underestimate no matter where it was placed.

The first impression the man in front of Xiao Yan gave off could be described with one word: Tyrant!

Regardless of whether it was his figure, appearance, or even the black-colored heavy spear behind his back, they were all filled with a similar feeling. This aura was one that belonged to only one person within the Inner Academy, third on the 'Strong Ranking,' Tyrant Spear Liu Qing!

The appearance of this man caused the entire Fighting Arena to descend into silence. Those gazes that were shot down from the viewing gallery faintly carried some fear and respect. Merely a couple of people, who could be counted with one's fingers, could talk face to face with this strong person who belonged to the peak of the Inner Academy.

The man glanced at Xiao Yan before his eyes immediately drifted to the unconscious Bai Cheng not far away. A powerful low voice was emitted faintly, "It is really unexpected that you were actually able to defeat Bai Cheng."

"I was merely lucky." Xiao Yan sucked the Heavy Xuan Ruler at one side with his palm and pulled it into his hand. His manner was totally calm, like an old well without the slightest ripple. He was not the least bit affected by the other person's status.

"We also have some conflict between us." Liu Qing did not utter any

additional nonsense as he stared at Xiao Yan and suddenly spoke with a smile.

Xiao Yan knit his brows slightly. Xiao Yan was naturally clearly aware that the 'some conflict' mentioned was the matter with Liu Fei back then. At this moment, he didn't make any excuses. The remaining Dou Qi within his body moved along his Qi Paths and slowly flowed, readying him to handle any fight that might erupt suddenly.

"Cousin." A few figures leaped down from the viewing gallery during the time that Liu Qing was conversing with Xiao Yan. Leading the group was a beautiful lady who happily called out to Liu Qing in a leisurely manner before she obediently stood behind him. However, the gaze which she vaguely threw toward Xiao Yan contained some pride.

"The right and wrong of the matter back then is something that others all know. Xiao Yan ge-ge did nothing wrong in this matter. Don't think that you can be filled with haughtiness within the Inner Academy just because your strength is quite strong. If you really come and stand for other people without discriminating between what is right and what is wrong, I, Xiao Xun Er, will accept the challenge." Xun Er's face sunk when she saw the circumstances. She ignored Xiao Yan, who was stopping her, as she took a step forward and coldly spoke.

Liu Qing was startled when he was reprimanded by Xun Er this rudely. His gaze immediately carried some surprise as he weighed Xun Er in front of him. With his talent and ability, there was seldom anyone who spoke in this manner to him no matter where he was. He felt quite curious now that he was rebuked by Xun Er in this manner. Moreover, his gaze had paused on Xun Er for some time due to her extremely alluring demeanor.

"Hmph, just what thing are you? Is my cousin someone you can reprimand? Don't be proud just because you have defeated Bai Cheng. That Xiao Yan is merely trash that relied on the strength of a medicinal pill." Liu Fei immediately became a little displeased when she saw the actions of Xun Er. This was especially the case when she saw that her cousin, who had always been indifferent to women, show some interest. A sour feeling instantly surged in her heart and she immediately took an

involuntary step forward, pointed at Xun Er and spoke in a haughty voice.

Xiao Yan merely lifted his brows in the face of Liu Fei's slander. However, he was too lazy to even turn his gaze over. He always kept such unreasonable and rude women at arm's length. Moreover, from the very start, his gaze had paused on Liu Qing's body. The pressure that this fellow gave was not the least bit weaker than Lin Xiuya and the rest.

Xiao Yan was able to treat Liu Fei's scolding as wind beside his ear, but Xun Er's face immediately became completely ice-cold. It was fine if the other party scolded her, however, scornful curses toward Xiao Yan were something that she could not endure!

"Fei-er!"

Liu Qing by the side also knit his brows slightly, clearly feeling that Liu Fei's rebuke was a little overboard. He immediately could not help but deepen his voice. When he raised his head, he saw the coldness on Xun Er's face, and was about to say something when his eyes shrank slightly. His body hurriedly took one step left, and coincidentally blocked Liu Fei behind him.

The instant Liu Qing's body moved, Xun Er, who was originally silent and still suddenly flashed forward. Two afterimages surfaced along the way. The spots where the two afterimages appeared were coincidentally both the left and right side of Liu Qing.

Liu Qing's expression changed a little the instant the two afterimages appeared. His hands suddenly passed through the two afterimages in a lightning-like manner. After which... he heard a clear slap sounding from behind him...

"Pa!"

Numerous human figures in the surrounding viewing gallery widened their mouths. Their faces were stunned as they eyed the delicate red handprint on Liu Fei's face. In an instant, the entire Fighting Arena had descended into a strange silence under the loud and clear slapping sound.

Xun Er raised her hand slightly and glanced indifferently at Liu Fei in

front of her, whose face was filled with disbelief. She coldly said, "Don't think that you can behave recklessly just because Liu Qing is backing you up. This slap is for Xiao Yan ge-ge."

"You, you... you slut. I want to kill you!" Liu Fei finally recovered under the provocation of the remaining pain on her face. She was given a vicious slap in public. This made her feel even worse than being hacked by a knife. In an instant, she was filled with embarrassment and fury. Her face turned purple due to her anger. With a sharp curse, her finger clawed at Xun Er's face with great strength.

Xun Er coldly eyed the somewhat wild Liu Fei. The brilliant gold glow on her delicate hand gradually became richer. The ferocious force that was contained on it caused the expressions of the few people behind Liu Fei to greatly change. They hurriedly flashed to the front and protected Liu Fei behind them.

"This student, aren't you a little overboard?" The human figure in the front changed as Liu Qing once again blocked in front of Xun Er as he spoke in a deep voice.

"She cannot blame others since she seeks to humiliate herself." Xun Er gave Liu Qing an indifferent glance. The golden-colored glow still shined brightly in her hands. She did not show the slightest fear even when faced with the strong person who was ranked third on the 'Strong Ranking.'

"Xun Er, come back." Xiao Yan knit his eyebrows as he stood behind her before letting out a soft cry.

The coldness on Xun Er face only began to defrost slowly when she heard Xiao Yan's cry. Her toes pressed gently on the ground, and her lovely body was like a butterfly that gently drifted and landed beside Xiao Yan. She gave a saucy smile when she saw the knit eyebrows of Xiao Yan. Her epiphyllum-like smile caused the eyes of some of the males in the surrounding viewing gallery to straighten.

Xiao Yan helplessly shook his head before grabbing Xun Er and pulling her behind him. Although he clearly knew that this girl had a hidden strength that was likely not weaker than his, his male pride caused him to

dislike leaving these matters of having a girl fight for him.

As Xun Er withdrew, the atmosphere in the arena immediately became extremely strange. Liu Fei was holding her face and crying softly behind Liu Qing. The other few people around hurriedly comforted her and Liu Qing's face sank slightly.

"Ke ke, it is really lively here today. I have just witnessed a fight between two men and now, it is the women's turn..." The strange atmosphere was suddenly broken by a laugh. A few human figures flashed down and appeared in the arena.

"Lin Xiuya? Yan Hao? Wow, just what wind has blown over the Fighting Arena today? These fellows who usually only know how to undertake secluded training have actually appeared together?"

Waves of private conversations immediately sounded from the viewing gallery following the appearance of the few human figures.

Xiao Yan was also startled when he saw Lin Xiuya and the others appear. He immediately smiled and greeted them.

Lin Xiuya first moved closer to converse a little with Xiao Yan. He then raised his thumb to Xun Er with his back facing Liu Qing and the rest before laughing softly and saying, "It really vents one's anger."

Xun Er gently glanced at Lin Xiuya in front of him. Although the appearance and demeanor of the other party was among the top, there was still not much expression on Xun Er's face. She merely nodded slightly before immediately placing her attention on Xiao Yan.

Lin Xiuya could only laugh when he saw that he was basically ignored. He rubbed his nose in embarrassment. This was really the first time in so many years that he was treated in this manner by a lady.

"Ke ke, I'm sorry. The character of this girl is like this." Xiao Yan helplessly patted Xun Er's head as he smiled and explained to Lin Xiuya.

"She has a character. The last time we had to leave in a hurry and had yet to thank you. If you had not intervened, it is likely that it would be difficult for the few of us to leave with our lives." Lin Xiuya smiled. He did

not purposefully suppress his voice. Therefore, even Liu Qing and the rest behind him could clearly hear this.

Lin Xiuya's action of not suppressing his voice caused Xiao Yan to be startled. He immediately looked at the slightly frowning Liu Qing. Only then did he come to a sudden understanding and could not help but nod his head with gratitude.

"Hee hee, I must say Liu Qing, you aren't thinking of challenging Xiao Yan today, are you? He is injured." Yan Hao by the side let out a smile, but he did not mince his words as he spoke the most important thing.

"I am someone who disdains taking advantage of another when the other is in trouble." Liu Qing replied faintly, "Since he has already defeated Bai Cheng, he has also ascended and entered the 'Strong Ranking.' In that case, I think that he would be sufficiently qualified to enter the 'Strong Ranking Grand Competition' one month from now. There will naturally be a chance at that time."

"The matter today is but an argument between females. I also don't wish to find trouble here. However, Fei-er cannot be beaten in vain. At that time, you can display all your strength if we meet in the Grand Competition. I also have some interest in you." Liu Qing mused for a moment before raising his head and speaking to Xiao Yan.

These words of Liu Qing undoubtedly carried a challenge. Therefore, those numerous gazes in the arena immediately turned toward Xiao Yan's body. Being able to receive Liu Qing's challenge also undoubtedly stated Xiao Yan's strength.

Xiao Yan laughed softly under everyone's gazes. He cupped his hands slightly. The slightest fear was absent from his voice. This boldness caused many to quietly nod their heads.

"I will naturally take you on at that time."



# Chapter 530: The Ranking on the ‘Strong Ranking’

Xiao Yan was slumped in a chair in the spacious large hall as he listened to Xun Er tell him about the situation of ‘Pan’s Gate’ after he had left. Occasionally, he would stretch his lazy waist and let out a big yawn. His lazy manner caused Xun Er to stop her speech and helplessly shake her head.

“How are Hu Jia’s injuries?” Xiao Yan smiled and asked her a question. His spirits were slightly lifted when he saw Xun Er helplessly cease speaking.

“Her injuries are quite serious this time. However, with the medicinal pills that you have refined, it is only a matter of time before she can completely recover. Moreover, from the looks of the fluctuations in her breath, it appears that there are faint traces of her about to break through to a nine star Da Dou Shi.” Xun Er smiled and replied.

Shock flashed across Xiao Yan’s face when he heard this. He immediately nodded slightly. Hu Jia’s and Wu Hao’s training talent belonged to the very excellent category. If Xiao Yan had not supported himself with many elixirs, it was likely that he would not be able to surpass them this swiftly.

“Has the outside world become a little calmer these two days?” Xiao Yan suddenly smiled bitterly and asked as he lifted a teacup by his side to take a shallow sip.

Two full days had passed since he had defeated Bai Cheng in the Fighting Arena back then. Xiao Yan had basically stayed within the house without taking a step outside during these two days. One reason was because that battle had exhausted his spirit while the other was because he had defeated Bai Cheng and leaped into being an expert on the ‘Strong Ranking’.

According to the rules, as long as there was someone who could defeat a

person on the 'Strong Ranking' within the Inner Academy, the victor would be able to replace the loser's ranking on the 'Strong Ranking'. Bai Cheng was ranked thirty-four on the 'Strong Ranking' Now that Xiao Yan had defeated him, he had catapulted up and become an expert on the 'Strong Ranking', occupying this position.

Thirty-four. This result may not appear to be close to the front, but in this Inner Academy where talents were as numerous as the clouds, it was sufficient to show the excellence of possessing this position. On the 'Strong Ranking' one would undergo extremely tough fight each time one's ranking increased by one. Although it was extremely difficult to leap into becoming an expert on the 'Strong Ranking' the great treatment was enough to cause many people to have eyes red with envy. According to what Xiao Yan knew, this thirty-fourth rank on the 'Strong Ranking' of his would be able to obtain two hundred days of 'Fire Energy' from the Inner Academy each month. Although the current Xiao Yan did not lack 'Fire Energy' to squander freely due to the sale of medicinal pills, this was an extremely rich reward in the eyes of others.

As long as a person rose by a small rank on the 'Strong Ranking', the treatment that he received would be much richer. Therefore, there were people who began to appear in succession after Xiao Yan defeated Bai Cheng, who had occupied the thirty-fourth rank on the 'Strong Ranking'. Stacks of challenge letters were delivered to 'Pan's Gate' one after another. Although the strength that Xiao Yan had displayed in the Fighting Arena was extremely strong back then, his strength was merely that of a one star Dou Ling no matter how one put it. Therefore, many people subconsciously thought that it might not be too difficult to defeat Xiao Yan. After all, he did not have a second 'Dragon Strength Pill' to consume.

The reason Xiao Yan had not left the house was partly because the stacks of challenge letters had given him a headache. He gave the outside world the excuse of ceasing to fight because he was recuperating. This caused those people who wanted to borrow Xiao Yan as a pedal to raise their position to helplessly look on with despair. After all, the Inner Academy similarly had some rules. Those injured had the right to reject

the challenge of others. Moreover, they would not have any burden.

“Ke ke, there are a lot more people who want to challenge you compared to yesterday. I think that as long as Xiao Yan ge-ge walks out of ‘Pan’s Gate’, I’m afraid there will immediately be seven to eight people issuing a challenge to you.” Xun Er covered her mouth and laughed.

Xiao Yan helplessly shook his head. He did not expect that this position of an expert on the ‘Strong Ranking’ would bring him such a large amount of trouble. He saw that Lin Xiuya and the others appeared to be recollected everyday. They were in no way similar to him who was badly battered by these challenge letters.

Xiao Yan was complaining in his heart. However, he had forgotten an important caveat, how many people within the Inner Academy dared challenge Lin Xiuya and the others given their strength? The treatment that he received could be considered something quite special within the entire ‘Strong Ranking’.

“Ah.” Xiao Yan lay in the chair feeling bored. He softly muttered, “I wonder when the Grand Competition will begin...”

“Ha ha, Xiao Yan, it is really unexpected that you have actually broken through to the Dou Ling class after not seeing you for two months. Moreover, you even defeated Bai Cheng. This news was really somewhat shocking. I did not really dare to believe it when I heard this from within the ‘Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower’.” The tightly shut front door was suddenly pushed opened and a familiar voice was transmitted into the house. Lin Yan’s figure immediately walked in.

Xiao Yan was startled when he heard this laughter. He immediately rejoiced as he raised his head and eyed Lin Yan who was walking in with a smiling face. With a smile, he said, “It is actually Senior Lin Yan. How are you? Have you recovered from the fire poison within your body?”

“Thanks to those medicinal liquids of yours, the fire poison has basically been removed.” Lin Yan greeted Xun Er before he carelessly searched for a chair to sit. The fiery-red color in his eyes currently showed the trend of having completely disappeared. It was completely different from the

bright redness a couple of months ago. Moreover, Lin Yan's demeanor was also a little less hot tempered following the removal of the fire poison. There was an additional thread of ordinary calm. Looking at his aura, it appeared that his strength had also advanced quite a lot.

"Tsk tsk, you have actually really reached the Dou Ling class. This training speed of yours really leaves people speechless." Lin Yan could not help but sigh. His gaze carefully swept over Xiao Yan's body as he sensed the aura within Xiao Yan's body that was more than a few times stronger than before.

Xiao Yan smiled and waved to Xun Er. The latter immediately and obediently took the tea from one side and handed it to Lin Yan.

"Hee hee, I heard that Junior Xun Er did not even put Liu Qing in her eyes at the Fighting Arena. Now, however, she is carrying tea for me. Xiao Yan, you really do have some skill." Lin Yan hurriedly received the tea and raised a thumb to Xiao Yan. The latter was able to partner with such an outstanding woman who was obedient to only him. This skill really caused Lin Yan to feel some admiration.

Xiao Yan helplessly shook his head. This Lin Yan may not be as hot-tempered after expelling the fire poison, but it appeared that his mouth could not control his words.

"I have also heard of the matter within the Fighting Arena. It is really unexpected that you have really come into conflict with Liu Qing. That fellow is not an ordinary person." Lin Yan smile withdrew a little as he spoke somewhat seriously.

"Who among the top ten of the 'Strong Ranking' is an ordinary person?" Xiao Yan smiled. He was not overly worried. Although his current strength was merely a one star Dou Ling, he was not too afraid of Liu Qing and the others after having leaped across that enormous threshold. If it had been in the past when Xiao Yan was merely a Da Dou Shi, he would have endured and would not have come into a head-on collision with Bai Cheng even though he had a trump card like the 'Angry Buddha Lotus Flame'. This was because he knew that the gap between two classes was really too

enormous. Even if he had powerful Dou Techniques, it was likely that he would end up in a predicament should he fail to defeat his opponent with his attack. It was completely different now. He had currently advanced into the Dou Ling class. Although he had a gap of many levels when compared with Liu Qing, who was at the peak of the Dou Ling class, it was likely that Liu Qing would still only be barely victorious in a fight between the both of them.

This was the gap between the classes!

Lin Yan was startled when he saw Xiao Yan's somewhat unconcerned expression. He immediately smiled and said, "What courage. It is really difficult for anyone to see through you brat. I think that you must have some capital hidden for you to be this arrogant. I have really worried too much."

Xiao Yan smiled. He did not become entangled on this topic. Instead, he mused for a moment before saying, "Does Senior Lin Xiao know just when the so called 'Strong Ranking Grand Competition' will begin?"

"Oh, ke ke. Now that you have a name on the 'Strong Ranking', this grand competition does really have something to do with you." Lin Yan smiled and nodded as he continued, "Counting the time, this grand competition should begin after one month. Why? Don't tell me that you have some intentions toward the top ten?"

Xiao Yan gave a noncommittal smile. He held his teacup and rolled it in his hand as he softly said, "I wonder just what rank does Lin Qing hold?"

Lin Yan smile became dull. He was silent for awhile before he extended three fingers.

"Third?" Xiao Yan was slightly startled. Xiao Yan was speechless. The strength of this Liu Qing had actually exceeded his expectations.

"The second is Lin Xiuya, the fourth is Yan Hao, the fifth to the eighth positions are renowned people within the Inner Academy. As for me, I am moving back and forth between the ninth and tenth. Of course, that is the ranking of the past. Now that the fire poison in my body has been completely expelled, my strength has soared by quite a bit. If we were to

rank again, I believe that I will be able to squeeze into the top six.” Lin Yan laughed as he explained the situation.

“Lin Xiuya is actually second?” Surprise drew across Xiao Yan’s face. It was really unexpected that Lin Xiuya’s ranking was actually one step higher than Liu Qing’s ranking. However, he also felt relieved as he thought in his heart. Back then, Lin Xiuya was still jumping around in a lively manner after receiving a blow from the ‘Snow Demon Sky Ape’ who had awoken its wild and violent bloodline back in the deep mountains. If it was another person at the peak of the Dou Ling class, it was likely that he would have lost his life on the spot. This fellow did indeed have quite a great strength.

“Don’t underestimate Lin Xiuya. This fellow has nearly practiced his wind affinity Dou Qi until it has reached its pinnacle. Moreover, he has quite a great background. The Qi Technique and Dou Skill which he practice are undoubtedly of a high class that a commoner can only have extravagant dreams of.” Lin Yan spoke seriously. Even a person as arrogant as him still had some admiration for this name. From this, it was sufficient to see Lin Xiuya’s strength.

Xiao Yan nodded slightly. Having seen the battle between Lin Xiuya and the ‘Snow Demon Sky Ape’, Xiao Yan would naturally not underestimate such a strong person. He mused a little within his heart before suddenly laughing, “There is the second and third place. In that case, who is in the first place?”

These words of Xiao Yan’s were originally just a random inquiry. However, after they left his mouth, the hands of Lin Yan in front of him suddenly stiffened. A faint fear flashed across his face. He opened his mouth, but failed to spit out the name that the older students feared like a tiger...

# Chapter 531: The Mysterious First on the Strong Ranking

Xiao Yan was slightly startled as he eyed the fear that flashed across Lin Yan's face. He immediately knit his brows slightly, and his heart began to churn a little. Ever since he was acquainted with Lin Yan, this arrogant fellow had never displayed fear toward anyone. He merely felt some admiration for the strengths of Lin Xiu Ya, Liu Qing, and the others when facing them. However, he never showed the slightest hint of fear of them. Now, on the other hand, this Lin Yan who was renowned for being arrogant and wild in the Inner Academy had descended into silence and displayed such an expression when mentioning the person ranked first on the 'Strong Ranking'. This caused Xiao Yan to be unable to maintain a calm heart.

"Ke ke, I was merely asking randomly. Senior Lin Yan need not take it to heart." Xiao Yan smiled slightly after the silence continued for a while. He continued smiling while spoke and he gently placed his teacup down.

The expression on Lin Yan's face finally became a little relaxed after hearing Xiao Yan's words. He let out a bitter smile as he sighed, "I really don't wish to mention that fellow. I think you will be able to see that fellow in the grand competition one month from now. However, I will give you some advice first. If you were to meet that fellow in the competition, you must not anger that fellow no matter what. You can also admit defeat if it is not possible."

Xiao Yan pursed his lips and quietly nodded. Just how strong was that fellow who was ranked first on the 'Strong Ranking'? Xiao Yan suddenly felt some curiosity for that fellow as this thought flashed within his heart. He really did not know just what kind of frightening fellow that person was in order to cause Lin Yan to say such words. Could it be that he had three heads and six limbs?

"Hee hee, however, you might not meet that fellow. The difficulty of you charging into the top ten is over ten times more difficult than defeating

Bai Cheng. Currently, all of those fellows in the top ten are, without exception, at the peak of the Dou Ling class. They have rich fighting experience. At the same time, each of them also possesses powerful Dou Skill in their hands. Their fighting strengths are far from what a person at Bai Cheng's class can be compared with." Lin Yan laughed. His straightforward words did not leave much face for Xiao Yan.

Xiao Yan laughed bitterly. He could not do anything about this forthright manner of Lin Yan and could only speak vaguely, "I will just do my best."

"Why don't we have a fight? If you can defeat me or endure some exchanges in my hands, you might have a chance." Lin Yan's gaze rotated two rounds around Xiao Yan's body. His eyes suddenly became fiery hot as he made a suggestion in a somewhat pressing manner.

Xiao Yan was startled when he heard this. He could not help but feel his entire body turn cold when he saw the thirsty manner of Lin Yan. This fellow's addiction to fighting was nearly comparable to Wu Hao's. He did not want to spend effort to fight this kind of person, who would turn into an insane person once they started fighting. Therefore, he hurriedly waved his hand and said, "Forget it, forget it. I have currently yet to recover. Let's wait for the future."

Lin Yan could only nod his head in disappointment when he heard Xiao Yan's rejection. After training for half a month within the 'Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower', he could sense his hands becoming itchy. He really hoped that there would be someone who would allow him to have a delightful carefree fight.

Xiao Yan hurriedly pulled away from this conversation topic when he saw Lin Yan's manner. He could not wait to find an excuse to sent the latter off after conversing for a while with him.

Xun Er could not help but smile and shake her head when she saw Xiao Yan send off Lin Yan and closed the door heavily. However, she hurriedly withdrew her smile when she saw Xiao Yan's angry eyes being thrown over. She spoke in a saucy manner, "I know that it is not that Xiao Yan ge is afraid of him, but that you are merely worried that you would injure



him when sparring.”

“You can just show off...” Xiao Yan rubbed his nose in embarrassment after being given a clean slate by Xun Er. His gaze glanced at the weather outside and mused for a moment before speaking, “I want to go and take a look at Elder Hao’s place. He controls the medicinal warehouse of the Inner Academy, and I am currently lacking certain medicinal ingredients. If he has them, I must get some from him no matter what.”

Xun Er nodded slightly when she heard this. She immediately asked, “You are lacking medicinal ingredients? Recently, the medicinal gathering group of our ‘Pan’s Gate’ was formed. Moreover, they have entered the mountains quite a number of times, and had a few great harvests. They may have what you need.”

Xiao Yan smiled bitterly. The medicinal ingredients that he needed were something that he had never even seen before. Their values were something that one could tell just by thinking. However, he could not brush aside Xun Er’s good intentions. Therefore, he finally said the name of the final medicinal ingredient that he lacked: Asparagus Ice Fire Fruit.

Xun Er’s brows frowned in deep thought for a while after hearing this name. She could only helplessly shake her head. She examined the list of what the medicinal gathering group had harvested but did not discover this medicinal ingredient among the listed names.

Xiao Yan did not feel surprise when he saw Xun Er acting in this manner. He said goodbye to Xun Er before opening the door and leaving.

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Xiao Yan looked left and right once he left the house. He found a remote place before summoning the Purple Cloud Wings. Finally, he leaped high into the sky before flying out of the new student area. His gaze glanced down when he flew past the entrance and did indeed discover some fellows were sneaking around beside the entrance, guarding it. He immediately let out a bitter laugh. As he flapped his wings, his body turned into a faint black shadow that disappeared into the distance under the cover of the sky that was gradually becoming dark.

There were many experts within the Inner Academy and Xiao Yan did not want to invite any trouble. Therefore, he landed at a place where there were few people after having avoided those fellows who had thoughts of challenging him. He withdrew the Purple Cloud Wings before he swiftly walked to the warehouse managing the medicinal ingredients of the Inner Academy.

As the place where the Inner Academy stored precious medicinal ingredients, this warehouse managing medicinal ingredients had quite the tight security. Not only was there Elder Hao, a Dou Wang, guarding this place, but there were also over ten instructors patrolling twenty-four hours a day. This kind of place was one that ordinary students were prohibited from entering. Perhaps it was because Elder Hao had given prior instructions, but Xiao Yan was not expelled from it after being stopped by a patrolling instructor. Instead, after having confirmed Xiao Yan's identity, the latter brought Xiao Yan to Elder Hao.

"Ke ke, in the two months that I have not seen you, you have actually reached the Dou Ling class. Moreover, you even defeated Bai Cheng, who is a six star Dou Ling. You are really not bad." Elder Hao, who was originally inspecting the medicinal ingredients being stored hurriedly placed down the things in his hands when he heard Xiao Yan had come to look for him. He ordered his subordinate to bring him in before smiling and eyeing Xiao Yan. Clearly, he had already heard of the matter at the Fighting Arena.

"I was merely lucky." Xiao Yan bowed slightly toward Elder Hao as he smiled. Only after the instructor left did he quietly speak about the intention of his visit. "This time around, I have come to look for Elder Hao mainly because I lack a medicinal ingredient in order to refine a medicinal pill. Therefore, I wish to come here to take a look and see if I can find it. Ke ke, now that my strength has increased a little, I will likely have a higher success rate in refining that 'Dragon Strength Pill'."

Xiao Yan's gaze intently observed Elder Hao's expression. Only upon seeing the somewhat happy face of the latter after he heard those last few words did Xiao Yan sigh in relief.

“Ke ke, these medicinal ingredients that are placed here will sooner or later be taken away by those old bastards from the Alchemist Department using some excuse.” Elder Hao waved his hand and walked closer to Xiao Yan in a somewhat earnest manner. He patted Xiao Yan’s shoulders as he smiled and said, “Xiao Yan, I shall not say any other unnecessary words to you. If you are able to refine just one medicinal pill that I am satisfied with, I will allow you to take away any one random medicinal ingredient from this warehouse. What do you say?”

Xiao Yan was startled. One kind of medicinal ingredient in exchange for a medicinal pill that he would be satisfied with? This...

“You should not think that I am taking advantage of you. I think that a medicinal ingredient that even you think is difficult to find would likely be an extremely rare one. You would not lose out if you exchanged a medicinal pill for a medicinal ingredient of this tier. What do you say?” Elder Hao laughed, clearly understanding what Xiao Yan was thinking in his heart when he saw the latter hesitating

Xiao Yan nodded slightly after quietly musing for awhile. If this place really had the final medicinal ingredient needed to refine the ‘Ground Spirit Pill’, the Asparagus Ice Fire Fruit, he did not really lose out by using a ‘Dragon Strength Pill’ to exchange for it. However, he would not lose out only if he exchanged for this medicinal ingredient. If it was some other medicinal ingredient, it was likely that this business was not really worth it.

“Alright. We’ll do as Elder Hao has suggested.”

A brilliant smile surfaced on Elder Hao’s face when he heard Xiao Yan agree. The frown on his forehead also became much more relaxed. He randomly threw out a snow white item and said, “This is the place where the management warehouse stores the most valuable medicinal ingredients. Go and search there. You can come and fulfill our transaction if you find it.”

Xiao Yan hurriedly received the snow white item. His eyes glanced at it. This was actually a jade plate that was made of white jade. There were

various life-like medicinal plants engraved on it. A faint medicinal fragrance seeped out from it, causing one to feel relaxed and happy.

“This Inner Academy really has a deep foundation. Even this jade plate is actually made with an extremely rare jade material.” Xiao Yan muttered in his heart as he held the jade plate. He did not continue to stay, but turned around and walked to the door that led to the medicinal ingredient warehouse.

“That’s right. Little fellow, remember to only search for the thing that you need. Don’t randomly touch anything else. There are traces of energy on those things. I will be able to sense it as soon as it is touched slightly.” Elder Hao reminded just before Xiao Yan entered. The medicinal ingredients inside were far too valuable and the Inner Academy could not tolerate not taking some precautions.

“Ke ke, Elder Hao, you can rest assured. Xiao Yan is not a greedy person.” Xiao Yan laughed. He understood that Elder Hao was reminding him not to be greedy. Therefore, he immediately gave a direct reply.

Elder Hao could only smile awkwardly after Xiao Yan had exposed the meaning of his words. He waved his hands and once again sat back onto the chair to review the documents of the medicinal ingredients.

Xiao Yan smiled slightly, pushed the door, and entered. A spacious corridor was behind the door. Xiao Yan followed it until the end where a faint energy was covering the place. His gaze looked in all directions. When he saw a notch on the wall by the side, Xiao Yan took a step forward and carefully placed the white jade into it.

The energy glow in front of him gradually became weak as the white jade plate was resting in the notch. A moment later, it completely disappeared.

Xiao Yan took the white jade plate. He eyed the wooden door hidden behind the energy barrier and rubbed his hands somewhat anxiously. After which, he pushed open the door and entered this medicinal warehouse, which was engulfed by medicinal fragrances.

# Chapter 532: Asparagus Ice Fire Fruit

Behind the wooden door was a spacious room that was covered by a faint fluorescent light. Xiao Yan slowly walked, in as he gazed about in all directions. Surprise gradually surged onto his face. The inner wall of the entire room was wrapped by a creamy white layer of jade. Even the ground under his feet was put together by pieces of neatly arranged white jade without the presence of any crack lines. That faint fluorescent light was actually being emitted from these white jade pieces.

“What a grand masterpiece.” Xiao Yan clicked his tongue and exclaimed to himself. These white jade pieces were extremely expensive. However, they were quite effective when used to preserve medicinal ingredients. In this kind of airtight environment, these valuable medicinal ingredients would not lose even the slightest medicinal effect. Moreover, the time that they could be placed in storage lengthened greatly. This kind of arrangement was far from what Xiao Yan’s usage of the storage ring to store the medicinal ingredients could compare with.

The spacious room that was surrounded by white jade had a couple built-in walkways. Positioned on the two sides of the walkway were tall and large shelves that were built with white jade. Xiao Yan randomly entered one of them and his gaze drifted toward the shelves. Immediately, various unique medicinal ingredients, which one could identify as being extremely rare at a glance, were quietly placed there. Various medicinal fragrances of different scents faintly flowed out.

“‘Yin Magical Flame Grass’... ‘Purple Spirit Plastic Flower’... this appears to be called the... ‘Cold Blood Fruit’?”

Xiao Yan’s footsteps followed the walkways next to the shelves as he slowly walked around. The various unique medicinal ingredients that were placed within it caused the shock on Xiao Yan’s face to become increasingly dense. In the end, he was unable to even name some of the medicinal ingredients. However, from the medicinal fragrances that these medicinal ingredients emitted, one could tell that they belonged to a kind of elixir where one may not find one in ten thousand medicinal

ingredients.

Xiao Yan completed walking a single corridor after spending nearly ten minutes. Although the Asparagus Ice Fire Fruit that he needed was absent, those other various and extremely rare medicinal ingredients caused Xiao Yan's heart to beat much more quickly.

Xiao Yan's throat rolled as he swallowed a mouthful of saliva. If not for his still present reasoning, it was likely that he would not be able to resist storing all of these medicinal ingredients into his storage ring. However, this thought was suppressed by him the moment it flashed in his heart. If he really did something like that, it was likely that he would not be able to stay in the Inner Academy any longer. Should this be the case, the matter of him wanting to obtain the 'Fallen Heart Flame' would also fall through. These medicinal ingredients may be precious and rare, but they paled a lot in comparison to the latter.

Xiao Yan's eyes stared intently at a dry tree branch which was blood red in color and formed a twisted shape that appeared like a meandering python. The rate at which his saliva was secreted in his mouth had become much faster. He was acquainted with this thing; Yao Lao had once told him that this 'Blood Python Branch' was an extremely rare medicinal ingredient. Moreover, it was a key ingredient to refine the 'Dou Ling Pill'.

The 'Dou Ling Pill' was basically one of the most sought after tier six medicinal pills on the Dou Qi continent. This kind of medicinal pill could only be consumed within the Dou Wang class. As long as one consumed one pill during this period of time, one would be able to raise one's level by one star without any risk. Of course, one could only consume one within this class. If one consumed more than that, one would simply waste the pill due to the resistance to the medicinal effects that had formed. Just think, raising one level at the Dou Wang class was something that one might not be able to achieve even with a few years. Yet, this small medicinal pill could save many years of accumulation. Moreover, it did not have any side effects. Those elite Dou Wang could not help but go crazy over it.

"Ah. I can see, but cannot touch."

Xiao Yan did his best to shift his gaze away from the 'Blood Python Branch'. He let out a bitter laugh before forcefully turning his body and forcing himself to walk to another corridor to search for the medicinal ingredient that he needed.

There were nearly six to seven walkways in the entire spacious white jade room with over a hundred types of medicinal ingredients placed on them. Moreover, all of them were of the extremely rare category. Xiao Yan walked down one corridor after another. The movement of his footsteps suddenly paused in the final corridor as his eyes shined while he stared at the shelf in front of him.

On the shelf was an extremely exquisite jade plate with a palm-sized fruit placed on it. This fruit was quite unique. Half of it was red in color while the other half was white in color. Xiao Yan could sense the heat seeping out from the red-colored side even though he was two feet away. The white-colored side, on the other hand, emitted a completely different ice-cold temperature. These two extremely different affinities were perfectly merged into one fruit. It must be said that nature was truly incomparably unique and unusual.

Additionally, there was faint line markings spreading out on the surface of this fruit which contained the two affinities of ice and fire. These lines all over the place and appeared to have a certain hidden pattern. However, if one was to carefully study it, one would see a cluster of complete mess that one could not understand.

Xiao Yan was surprised as he eyed this unique fruit. Although Xiao Yan had never seen the so-called 'Asparagus Ice Fire Fruit' before, he was still able to conclude from Yao Lao's description that the thing in front of him should be the final medicinal ingredient that he had searched bitterly for, the 'Asparagus Ice Fire Fruit'!

"I have finally found it. This Inner Academy really does have a rich collection. It is even able to possess such a rare medicinal ingredient." The joy on Xiao Yan's face was difficult to hide. He rubbed his hands excitedly and extended his hand to remove the 'Asparagus Ice Fire Fruit'.

However, he had just extended his hand when an extremely delicate, small hand seemed to appear out of nowhere and took the 'Asparagus Ice Fire Fruit' from the jade plate under Xiao Yan's incomparably stunned gaze.

Xiao Yan was actually unable to react in time when his target was snatched. His gaze eyed the empty jade plate blankly. An instant later, he suddenly turned his head in a lightning-like manner. His gaze carried some shock as he looked to his side.

The corner of Xiao Yan's mouth twitched a little when his shocked gaze saw the owner of the small hand beside him.

The person who appeared beside Xiao Yan was a young girl in white clothes who was level to his waist. The little girl appeared to be twelve to thirteen years old. Her pale-purple hair was let out to her waist and her face was very soft. The girl's appearance was beautiful, white, and clear, and her pair of black watery eyes blinked at Xiao Yan. It appeared to have a demonic strength that caused the shock in Xiao Yan's heart to gradually disappear.

Xiao Yan's throat rolled a little. His gaze shifted down slowly only to discover that the little girl's left hand was holding a gold-colored medicinal ingredient that appeared to possess the gold affinity. Her right hand was tightly clenching the target of his current trip, the Asparagus Ice Fire Fruit.

Xiao Yan blinked his eyes. He recalled the scene earlier and shock suddenly swarmed into his heart. Just when did this little girl appear by his side? If she had not extended her hand to take the Asparagus Ice Fire Fruit earlier, it was likely that he would still be unaware that there was a person standing beside him...

The white-clothed little girl opened her innocent large eyes and studied Xiao Yan for a while. After which, she suddenly took the seemingly gold-like medicinal ingredient in her hand and placed it into her small mouth. From the looks of it, she was actually thinking of biting it.

"Don't!" Xiao Yan shouted as a reflex action when he saw the action of



the little girl. He recognized that ingredient. It was a rare medicinal ingredient named 'Hard Gold Pu'. It could be used to refine medicine but its body was as hard as metal. Forget about using one's teeth to bite it. Even an ordinary flame would be unable to do anything to it.

The little girl completely ignored Xiao Yan's cry. Her neat, snow-white, small teeth bit down with great strength. Immediately... a clear sound like that of a mountain rock breaking began to reverberate within the spacious room.

Xiao Yan was dull as he eyed the tiny gap on the 'Hard Gold Pu'. One could still see teeth marks in the spot where the gap was. Droplets of golden yellow color liquid dripped out from the gap and landed on the snow-white jade floor, appearing extremely eye-catching.

"Creak, creak..."

The little girl's mouth wrapped around the 'Hard Gold Pu' that she had bitten off and her teeth chewed repeatedly. A thread of golden-yellow liquid spilled out from the corner of her mouth. Finally, it dribbled down her chin. That hard metallic 'Hard Gold Pu' was just like an ordinary snack in the mouth of this little girl as it was easily chewed into pieces before being swallowed into her stomach.

Xiao Yan's dull gaze continued for a long time. Finally, he slowly recovered. As he eyed the golden-yellow liquid on the corner of the mouth of the white-clothed girl in front of her, he felt a great heartache. Was this not too much of a waste of naturally rare things?

The white-clothed little girl used the pinkish back of her hand to rub away the golden-yellow liquid from the corner of her mouth. She took one glance at Xiao Yan. There was a faint indifference in her large dark-black eyes. After which, she once again lifted the 'Asparagus Ice Fire Fruit' on her other hand. She opened her small mouth and appeared to actually be intending to take a bite of this thing.

This action of the little girl immediately shocked Xiao Yan until he was terror-stricken. This 'Asparagus Ice Fire Fruit' was something that he had found with great difficulty. If she was to just take a bite like this, just how

long would it take before he would be able to find a second one?

“Don’t eat it!” Xiao Yan cried out once again. Xiao Yan could not be bothered by the strange condition of the little girl in front of him. He hurriedly extended his hand out and grabbed for the ‘Asparagus Ice Fire Fruit’.

His hand had just been extended out when the small hand of the little girl, which was still holding the ‘Hard Gold Pu’, extended out in a lightning-like manner. Finally, she extended two snow-white-pinkish finger and gently gripped Xiao Yan’s palm.

Although the actions of the little girl were quite light and agile, Xiao Yan’s face suddenly changed when the two fingers gripped onto him. He tried to pull his hand with all his might, but it did not cause the little girl to even move her hand slightly. Immediately, shock could not help but surface on his face. This... what kind of a monster was this little girl? She actually possessed a strength that even a Dou Wang did not possess at such a young age. This... a thought rapidly rotated around his heart as he felt his back persperate with cold sweat.

The white-clothed little girl’s small mouth moved a little after gripping Xiao Yan’s palm. A crisp moving tender voice of a little girl carried an indifference as it sounded within the room. Xiao Yan did not know whether he was mistaken, but he even felt that this tender voice contained some killing intent...

“You want to take my thing?”

# Chapter 533: The Mysterious White-Clothed Little Girl

Her voice was obviously a tender one and she had a cute appearance. However, the strange aura the white-clothed little girl emitted caused Xiao Yan's mind to tense up.

He exchanged glances with her large dark-black eyes. A moment later, he laughed dryly, "Little girl, this thing tastes awful. Why don't you give it to me."

"I need to eat them if I want to grow up!" The little girl said calmly.

"It needs time for you to grow. By doing this, you are simply pulling the shoot to help it grow and does not have any benefits." Xiao Yan's face was calm, but his heart had become noisy. This strange little girl had already eaten one rare medicinal ingredient, and he was the only one who had just entered this medicinal ingredient management warehouse. It was likely that he would be in some trouble if Elder Hao was to look into the matter.

"Time is useless to me!" The little girl's face sunk a little when she heard Xiao Yan's words. She used her tender tone to speak loudly.

"Oh, heavens!" Xiao Yan weakly patted his forehead as he felt a wave of a headache. Just where had this monster-like little girl ran out from? Not only was her strength so great that it was frightening, but her words were also quite strange. If she was just an ordinary little girl, Xiao Yan would forcefully snatch the 'Asparagus Ice Fire Fruit' even if he had to bear the notoriety of being someone who bullied a child. However, when he had sensed the frightening strength of that little girl, he could only obediently keep this thoughts properly. He clearly knew that the strength of this little girl, who had caused him to be unable to move with just two fingers earlier, was likely to not end well if she were to go crazy.

"Elder Hao will find trouble with you if you eat the medicinal ingredients here." Xiao Yan laughed bitterly and said.

"That old man? I am not afraid. He would not dare to do anything to me

even if he knew!" The little girl snorted as she rolled her eyes cutely.

Xiao Yan's eyes twitched. His heart had started to move. This little girl was so arrogant and defiant. Could she be a granddaughter of one of the upper echelons of the Inner Academy? However, the position of Elders in the academy were similar. If their children did something wrong, none of them would dare to speak in this matter to the other Elders. Could it be that this white-clothed little girl was the granddaughter of the First Elder who had not shown himself or the granddaughter of the mysterious Headmaster?

"My mood is good today, so I will not beat you up. You should hurry up and leave. Don't bother me." The little girl once again took another bite of the 'Hard Gold Pu'. She spoke in a vague voice as she chewed her mouth. Once again, she swallowed a mouthful of the golden-yellow liquid. However, she knit her brows slightly and muttered, "It tastes really awful."

Xiao Yan could not help but be speechless when he heard her muttering from the side. If other alchemists were to see how she ruined such a rare medicinal ingredient, and even mutter that it taste awful, they would likely be so furious that smoke would rise from their nostrils no?

Xiao Yan helplessly shook his head. He was just about to say something when his heart moved slightly. An extremely gentle smile surfaced on his face as he squatted down and said gently, "Little sister, these medicinal ingredients taste awful, no?"

As his mouth uttered these words, Xiao Yan's heart quietly scorned. These medicinal ingredients contained extremely pure medicinal strength. Their taste would naturally not be good if they were directly consumed.

"Ah ha, it's awful!" The white-clothed little girl immediately nodded her small head in agreement when she heard Xiao Yan's words. Although she appeared to have an indifference that was unusual for a normal person, at this moment, it appeared that she was no different from an ordinary little girl.

"If it taste awful, can you return this fruit to this older brother? I will treat you to something nice." Xiao Yan smiled and made a suggestion. The

smile on his face was just like that of a strange uncle deceiving a little girl.

“No! It may taste awful, but will the things that you will treat me to contain a large amount of energy within them?” The little girl immediately became alert as she shook her head when she heard that Xiao Yan wanted her to hand over the ‘Asparagus Ice Fire Fruit’.

Xiao Yan’s smile became dull. These medicinal ingredients were all born from the gathering of natural energy. How could an ordinary thing contain such a powerful energy? However, by listening to the meaning in her words, it appeared that she was eating these rare medicinal ingredients for the pure medicinal strength within them. What caused Xiao Yan to feel more flabbergasted was that the body of this little girl in front of him was able to withstand the assault of the energy from the medicinal ingredients that had yet to be refined. After all, they may possess pure medicinal strength, but that energy was even wilder compared to that of a medicinal pill. Xiao Yan had some doubts in his heart, but after he thought of the various unusual actions of the little girl, he quietly nodded. It was likely that this little girl was not an ordinary person.

Xiao Yan rubbed his head while feeling distressed. A moment later, he said in a probing manner, “Why don’t I help you slightly refine the medicinal ingredients that you want to eat and turn them into something that is tastier? This is better than eating the medicinal ingredients raw.”

“Refine?” The little girl’s chewing mouth paused slightly. Her large dark-black eyes suddenly become a little brighter. “You are an alchemist?”

Xiao Yan thought that this matter could work in his heart when he saw the expression of the little girl. He hurriedly nodded and said, “As long as you return this ‘Asparagus Ice Fire Fruit’ to me, I will help you refine the medicinal ingredients that you want to eat until they become tastier. What do you say?” Refining medicinal pills was an extremely troublesome task, but it would not consume too much effort if the task was merely refining a kind of medicinal ingredient until it turned into a Yaowan and quietly adding a little other ingredients that made it taste better.

(TL: Danwan/Yaowan – pills that have no real medicinal effect to a

human and can potentially be harmful if consumed)

However, this kind of Yaowan that merely used one kind of medicinal ingredient to refine did not escape the wild and violent nature of its medicinal effect. Moreover, this kind of single medicinal effect did not have too much use. Therefore, there was seldom anyone who would waste a medicinal ingredient to refine it into a Yaowan that could not even be considered a medicinal pill.

The little girl hesitated slightly when she heard this. She eyed the 'Asparagus Ice Fire Fruit' which appeared very tasty in her hands. After hesitating for a long while, she finally nodded unwillingly and gave it to Xiao Yan. She grimaced in pain as she said, "However, if the medicinal pill that you refine is not tasty, I will not only snatch it back, but will also eat you!"

"Eat me? With that small mouth of yours?" Xiao Yan laughed in his heart. He swiftly received the 'Asparagus Ice Fire Fruit' before stuffing it into his storage ring, afraid that this little girl of unknown origin would regret her decision.

"You have already taken the thing. Hurry up and help me refine." The little girl handed over the 'Hard Gold Pu' in her hand which she had taken two bites from to Xiao Yan as she said crisply.

"Hee hee, there is no need to hurry. Let us leave first, I have taken the 'Asparagus Ice Fire Fruit' and need to account to Elder Hao." Xiao Yan said with a smile. After which, he took the lead to walk out of the medicinal warehouse. He wanted to bring this strange little girl to Elder Hao and tell him about the situation. Otherwise, if that old fellow were to blame this consumption of the 'Hard Gold Pu' on him, Xiao Yan would really suffer a great loss.

"What is there to account to that old fellow." The little girl murmured. She did not show the slightest sign of being worried as she grabbed the 'Hard Gold Pu' and followed Xiao Yan.

Xiao Yan only sighed in relief when he heard the sound of footsteps behind him. He swiftly walked out of the medicinal warehouse and placed

the white jade onto the wall. Only after he saw the energy barrier once again appear did his face immediately let out a smile as though he had placed down a heavy burden.

“This broken defensive barrier does not have the slightest use. It is but a decoration when it is activated.” The little girl by his side smacked her lips. Her white, tender seemingly transparent hand pushed into the energy barrier. It shuttled past a couple of times and there seemed to be no resistance to her movement.

Xiao Yan opened his mouth and eyed the actions of this little girl. A loss appeared in his eyes. Was the energy barrier really a decoration? As he had this thought in his mind, he extended his hand and jabbed at the energy barrier. However, when his hand came into contact with that round light barrier, it appeared to have touched metal. He jabbed with some strength and his finger felt a faint pain, but he did not even make the slightest entry into it. Clearly, this energy barrier had an extremely shocking defense... but... how could this little girl view it as though it was nothing?

“Hee hee, stupid.” The little girl beside him eyed the actions of Xiao Yan, and immediately laughed out loud. Her clear, tender laughter reverberated unceasingly down the corridor.

Xiao Yan withdrew his finger in an embarrassed manner. He was about to say something when the white-clothed little girl snorted. She turned her body in an unrestrained manner and strode toward the exit of the corridor, leaving only the back of her head to Xiao Yan.

“This little girl... just what kind of a monster is she?” Xiao Yan was speechless as he eyed the back of the little girl. His heart could not help but feel a helplessness as he sighed.

.....

Elder Hao still had his head buried in the desk in front of him within the quiet room as he looked over the document within. He did not raise his head as he smiles said after hearing the door being opened, “What? Xiao Yan, have you found the medicinal ingredient that you need?”

After his words sounded, however, Elder Hao sensed that there was something wrong with the atmosphere. Only then did he lift his head and saw Xiao Yan's face which was filled with helplessness. His gaze shifted down before a white-clothed little girl with long pale-purple hair appeared in his gaze.

Elder Hao blinked his old eyes and eyed the white-clothed little girl. A moment later, he recovered and immediately leaped from his chair. He said furiously, "Why are you here again?" When his gaze saw the 'Hard Gold Pu' in the little girl's hand where two bites had been taken, his furious eyes widened. "Are you treating this place of mine as a restaurant, coming here regularly to have a sumptuous meal? If you want medicinal ingredients, don't you know to go into the deep mountains to search for them?"

"It is so troublesome to look for them myself. There are ready-made ones here. Why can't I eat them? Old man, you really speak a lot of nonsense. If you continue to grumble, be careful of me beating you up." The little girl glanced at Elder Hao from the side of her eyes. She appeared to be protesting and had even widened her mouth to take a bite of the 'Hard Gold Pu'.

Elder Hao was angered by this little girl's arrogance until he rolled his eyes. However, this Elder who was much respected by the students in this Inner Academy could only resent with grit teeth. Looking at his matter, it appeared that he was quite fearful of this little girl in front of him.

"You should hurry up. You still need to refine something for me. If you continue to delay, I will gulp you down." The little girl's tender voice urged as her gaze turned toward Xiao Yan.

Xiao Yan felt lost at the identity of the little girl when he saw the conversation between the two of them. He let out a bitter smile as he took a step forward and said, "Elder Hao, I have already taken the thing that I need. You can check it. Please give me two sets of medicinal ingredients for the 'Dragon Strength Pill'. I will help you refine it."

Elder Hao's expression quietly became a little better after hearing Xiao



Yan's words. He took out a large pile of medicinal ingredients and placed it on the table. In a soft voice, he said, "Why have you bumped into her? Are you alright?" Hearing the meaning behind his words, it appeared that this little girl was like an evil demon that ate people. Nevertheless, it was true that the latter frequently used the words 'gulp you down' to threaten people.

"I don't know either." Xiao Yan shook his head while smiling bitterly. He stored the medicinal ingredients on the table properly and gave a short summary of the events earlier.

"Uh... you are really quite unlucky. Ah, serve this great-grandaunt properly. Don't let her go crazy. Otherwise, it will be very frightening." Elder Hao patted Xiao Yan's shoulders with some sympathy as he spoke.

TL: The word great-grandaunt is used to describe a person who is very difficult to please/serve

Xiao Yan's entire body felt uneasy because of this manner of Elder Hao. He could not resist asking, "Just what kind of person is she?"

"Person? Who said she is human?" Elder Hao rolled his eyes, twitched his mouth and replied.

TL: The words for person / human are the same in chinese but the translation is different.

"She... she is not a human?" Xiao Yan was slightly startled. His forehead was filled with cold sweat as his voice formed words.

# Chapter 534: Not a Human

Xiao Yan's eyes did not blink as he viewed the white-clothed little girl seated cross-legged opposite him within the quiet room. He really did not expect that such a cute little girl had originally transformed from a Magical Beast... Since he was born, this was the first time that he had seen a human transformed from a Magical Beast. Therefore, he felt surprise and gained a sudden understanding in his heart.

"No wonder she dares to eat medicinal ingredients raw. Her original form is actually a Magical Beast. With the strong body of a Magical Beast, the wild and violent medicinal strength is still within the boundary of her resistance."

"Have you seen enough? Hurry up and help me refine!" The little girl became slightly angry as she was being studied by Xiao Yan. She immediately threw the 'Hard Gold Pu' in her hand to him and furiously spoke. Earlier, Elder Hao may have spoken to Xiao Yan in a soft voice but she could still clearly hear what he said.

Xiao Yan received the 'Hard Gold Pu' and smiled with a nod. He waved his hand and summoned his medicinal cauldron. The last time, his medicinal cauldron had exploded during the competition. Therefore, the medicinal cauldron which he used this time around was something which he had bought from the Trading Area after the event. Its grade was not very high and was similar to the medicinal cauldron that he had used before. However, it was still passable to use.

With a wave of his hand, a wisp of green-colored flame formed on the tip of Xiao Yan's finger. He was just about to throw it into the medicinal cauldron when he was surprised to discover that the little girl was scooting away in a somewhat panicked manner beside him. Xiao Yan was startled when he saw her faintly anxious pupils. Immediately, he came to a sudden comprehension. It was likely that she had sensed that this 'Green Lotus Core Flame' was not ordinary. Normally speaking, as long as one was not a fire affinity Magical Beast, a Magical Beast would have some faint rejection for fire.

“Ke ke, it’s alright.” Xiao Yan comforted. He threw the wisp of flame into the medicinal cauldron. The little girl’s tensed body only gradually relaxed after seeing the flame enter the medicinal cauldron.

Xiao Yan waited for the flame to grill the medicinal cauldron for awhile. After which, he threw the ‘Hard Gold Pu’ into it. With a wave of his hand, the fiery flame immediately began to rise intensely within the medicinal cauldron. This refinement was not considered difficult. It was alright as long as the flame had sufficient heat. Therefore, it did not exhaust too much of Xiao Yan’s spirit.

Besides refining, Xiao Yan split his attention and turned his gaze toward the white-clothed little girl by his side. His heart had become much more curious about her ever since he learned of her identity.

At this moment, the little girl’s large dark-black eyes stared into the medicinal cauldron without blinking.

“Little sister, cough, I wish to ask you a question. Will you answer me?” Xiao Yan let out a cough before he smiled and asked a question.

“What?” The little girl did not turn her gaze. She merely carelessly opened her mouth.

“I remember that if a Magical Beast wants to transform into a human form, it must at the very least reach the Dou Huang class, no? Don’t tell me...” Xiao Yan smiled and asked her a question. He really had some difficulty believing that this little girl in front of him possessed the ability of a Dou Huang. Although her strength was extremely frightening, Xiao Yan had quietly weighed it, and it had appeared around the strength of the Dou Wang class.

“I am not that strong. It is just that I accidentally ate a rarely seen ‘Body Transformation Grass’. After which, I turned into this manner and can no longer transform back. The reason for me eating these medicinal ingredients is to quickly grow up. After which, I will be able to transform between my beast body and human body as I please.” The little girl frowned. It appeared that she was not really interested in mentioning this. Therefore, her voice carried a humming tone.

“Body Transformation Grass? No wonder...” Xiao Yan came to a sudden understanding when he heard this. The ‘Body Transformation Grass’ was a key ingredient to refine the ‘Body Transformation Pill’. Therefore, it also possessed some of the transformation effects of the ‘Body Transformation Pill’. However, if a beast who had yet to reach required strength were to consume it, the beast would get stuck in its transformation in human form until its strength suddenly broke through to the Dou Huang class.

“Where are your parents?” Xiao Yan glanced at the ‘Hard Gold Pu’ which was gradually melting under the grilling of the green flame within the medicinal cauldron as he randomly asked.

“I don’t have any.” The little girl lowered her head and folded both legs. Her hands hugged her knees as her snow-white neat teeth tightly bit her lips. Those large dark-black eyes had some moisture. “Since I have gained consciousness until now, I have been living alone deep in the mountains. When I was young, I was bullied by the other fellows and could only flee gloomily... until I ate the ‘Body Transformation Grass’. It was then that I met the First Elder of the Inner Academy. He brought me to the Inner Academy and I have remained here.”

Xiao Yan was startled. He eyed the stubborn manner in which the little girl tightly bit her lips. Even Xiao Yan could vaguely sense the sadness in her heart. He let out a soft sigh and did his best to use a gentle voice to speak, “At the very least you will not be bullied in this place.”

“Those fellows are so afraid of me. How would they dare to bully me? For someone like you, I can eat you up in one gulp.” Pride was lifted on the little girl’s face once again as she spoke.

“Do not say that you will eat someone up in one gulp if you meet anyone in the future. You are now of the human form.” Xiao Yan shook his head in a speechless manner. She should see how hilarious it was when this small body spoke such words.

“Hmph. This is the truth, but I haven’t eaten a human before.” The little girl grunted. Her attitude had become much better after conversing with Xiao Yan for a while.

“Then it is best that you do not eat one...” Xiao Yan muttered. He waved his hand and a lump of powder fell into the medicinal cauldron. Immediately, it merged together with the golden-yellow liquid. Xiao Yan’s ten fingers suddenly danced swiftly. Following the dancing of his fingers, the golden-yellow liquid within the medicinal cauldron swiftly separated. Finally, it transformed into dozens of tiny liquid clusters.

“Coagulate!” Xiao Yan cried out gently. The liquid swiftly solidified. In the blink of an eye, they turned into dozens of shiny gold Danwans, rolling and rotating above the green fire.

TL: Danwan/Yaowan – pills that has no really medicinal effect to a human and can potentially be harmful if consumed

“This kind of refinement is really easy. How good would it be if refining medicinal pills can be this relaxing...” Xiao Yan let out a bitter laughter as he eyed the Danwans that were emitting a golden-colored glow. With a wave of his hand, the dozens of golden-colored Danwans carried the golden glow as they shot out from within the medicinal cauldron. Finally, they landed in a jade bottle in Xiao Yan’s hand.

“Hey, why don’t you try it. The taste should be much better than the medicinal ingredients that you eat raw.” Xiao Yan smiled and suggested as handed over the jade bottle to the little girl by his side. She had been eagerly watching him..

“Ai ai,” The little girl nodded repeatedly as she swiftly poured out a gold-colored Danwan. She ignored the remaining heat present on it and directly threw it into her mouth. She used her great strength to chew.

“How tasty...” The little girl chewed the Danwan into pieces after two to three bites before swallowing it. She licked her lips and eyed the jade bottle in her hand, wishing to continue eating.

Xiao Yan smiled and waved his hand to take out the medicinal ingredients to refine the ‘Dragon Strength Pill’ from his storage ring. He arranged them as he said, “You should keep these Danwans for your own consumption. Do not give anyone else this to eat. Otherwise, you will torment that person to death.” This kind of Danwan could not even be

called a medicinal pill. Only she, who had a strong Magical Beast constitution could endure this kind of wild and violent medicinal strength. If a human were to consume this, it was likely that he would lose a layer of skin or even die.

“I myself feel that they are inadequate...” The little girl muttered. She stood up and purposefully acted in an aged manner as she patted Xiao Yan’s shoulders. “You have done quite well. You can come and find me if there is anyone who bullies you in the future. I will stand up for you. There is no one in this Inner Academy who dares offend me.”

Xiao Yan felt neither able to laugh nor cry as he shook his head. He gently rubbed the extremely cute head of the little girl as he smiled and said, “Alright, I will definitely look for you.”

“Then if I have eaten all of these, can you help me refine more? Treat it as a reward for me protecting you.” The little girl immediately rejoiced when she heard this. She sat in a kneeling position in front of Xiao Yan. Those large dark-black eyes were filled with anticipation.

“...” Xiao Yan rolled his eyes. This little girl was actually planning something like this. He nearly thought that she had a good heart.

“Alright, alright. You can look for me after you have finished eating all of them. Remember my name and the place where I reside.” Xiao Yan waved his hand and replied somewhat weakly.

“I know. It’s Xiao Yan. That old fellow from earlier said it. I will also know your place of residence.” The little girl laughed. She no longer needed to consume those awful tasting medicinal ingredients. This caused her to really jump for joy. Xiao Yan was given the title of an extremely good person in her heart.

“In that case, you should continue refining. This medicinal refinement is far too dull. It is fortunate that I did not learn it. Otherwise, I would be bored to death.” The little girl finally stood up with satisfaction after achieving her aim. She extended her tongue toward Xiao Yan and laughed as she responded.

Xiao Yan once again shook his head, feeling speechless. He eyed the

little girl who was about to leave before suddenly shouting, "That's right. Little sister, I still don't know your name."

"I am called Zi Yan. It is a name that the First Elder give me. However, those fellows in the Inner Academy are extremely afraid of me. They privately call me 'Brute Force Queen'. Humph, all of them think that I am unaware of it." The little girl quietly knit her nose. Her fist danced violently in front of her. Immediately, a sharp sound suddenly appeared and a couple of invisible fist shadows shot out like the wind. Finally, they nestled close to Xiao Yan's face as they flew by before heavily smashing into the specially made wall that was as hard as metal. At that moment, a couple of deep dark-black holes that carried some crack lines surfaced on it.

Cold sweat dripped down from Xiao Yan's forehead. He rubbed his forehead in a stunned manner. It was a long while later before he threw a furious stare at Zi Yan, "Little monster, do you want to kill me?"

The small hand covered her mouth. She secretly extended her tongue before giving a hurried bow to Xiao Yan. Currently, Xiao Yan was like a parent providing food for her; she must not offend him.

"Xiao ge-ge, you can continue to refine. I will be leaving first. I will come and look for you after I finish eating them." Although she spoke like this in her mouth, Zi Yan had hurriedly fled out of the door.

Xiao Yan could only laugh bitterly when he saw that Zi Yan had escaped. This little girl was indeed cute, but she was a little too violent... Xiao Yan sighed. He waved his hand and a wisp of green-colored flames once again formed on the tip of his finger.

"That's right, Xiao ge-ge, I have a ranking in the Inner Academy. It is that whatever 'Strong Ranking'. I am the first, alright. If there is anyone who bullies you in the future, you can just mention my name." A small head suddenly extended in from the doorway. She smiled at Xiao Yan before hurriedly fleeing.

"Puff..."

The green-colored flame that was curling upwards suddenly disappeared

completely. His mouth widened as he stared at the door in a stunned manner. It was a long while later before his entire body twitched as he muttered, "I... I... she is that top person on the 'Strong Ranking' that caused Lin Yan to greatly tremble with fear?"

Xiao Yan only felt that this world was filled with drama at this moment.



# Chapter 535: The Final Medicinal Ingredient

It was a long while before Xiao Yan, who was within a quiet secret room, finally recovered from the shocking news that Zi Yan had spat from her mouth. He rubbed his face with great strength and laughed bitterly. It was really unexpected that the first on the 'Strong Ranking', which was described by Lin Yan until it appeared that she was an immortal, was actually such a little girl. No, it should be said that it was a powerful Magical Beast with a human appearance.

"This little girl is also quite cute. I wonder why Lin Yan is so afraid of her. However, with her strength, she is really able to sit in the top position. Looking from her frightening strength, it is likely that even an elite Dou Wang would not dare to fight her head on." Xiao Yan muttered softly.

"Although this little girl's strength is so frightening that it is a little overboard, she appears to completely rely on her physical strength from the way she attacked earlier. She did not exert even the slightest energy." Yao Lao's voice suddenly sounded from within Xiao Yan's heart in a slow manner.

"Is Teacher able to see just what kind of Magical Beast Zi Yan is?" Xiao Yan inquired.

"I cannot tell... she has consumed the 'Body Transformation Grass'. Therefore, if she does not reveal her true form, an ordinary person would have difficulty identifying just what kind of Magical Beast she is." Yao Lao mused for a moment before saying, "However, from this intelligence of hers and the frightening strength that she displayed, I think that her original form should be a kind of extremely rare unique beast from the ancient times. After all, it is definitely impossible for an ordinary Magical Beast to train until the Dou Wang class without at least a hundred years if it are not be blessed with extremely good opportunity. Yet, after examining this little girl's aura, it did not appear like a Magical Beast that had trained for a hundred years. Hence, her original form should have quite an

extraordinary origin.”

“Oh...” Xiao Yan nodded slightly. Although Zi Yan’s actual strength was very powerful, it appeared that her mind was just like a twelve to thirteen year old little human girl. Of course, this was excluding the indifferent aura that she would occasionally reveal.

Xiao Yan withdrew his curiosity for Zi Yan in his heart. He placed his entire focus back to the medicinal ingredients that had filled the area in front of him. Even he did not dare to say that he would succeed on the first try when refining this ‘Dragon Strength Pill’. Therefore, when he had opened his mouth he asked for two sets of medicinal ingredients.

“Ah, refining this thing is really a toil on my mind. However, I can only go all out for that ‘Asparagus Ice Fire Fruit’...” Xiao Yan let out a bitter laughter. He once again summoned a wisp of green flame and threw it into the medicinal cauldron. A moment later, his mind gradually agglomerated as he used his entire focus to begin the refinement once again...

The refinement of the ‘Dragon Strength Pill’ was nearly a hundred times more complicated and troublesome than refining the ‘Hard Gold Pu’ for Zi Yan earlier. It was fortunate that Xiao Yan’s strength had already advanced to the Dou Ling class. Regardless of whether it was in terms of the degree of force of the Dou Qi, or his control of the flame, he possessed an extremely obvious improvement. Hence, the training this time around was much more relaxing compared to when he competed with Han Xian. However, this was merely relatively speaking. From the looks of the dense perspiration that repeatedly seeped out from his forehead, he needed to put in all his effort in order to be able to refine this ‘Dragon Strength Pill’.

The green flame passed through the medicinal cauldron and was imprinted on the wall within the quiet room. It danced around, making threatening gestures as though it was a vicious beast. As the flame rose, the medicinal ingredients that were placed in front of Xiao Yan were also swiftly being reduced.

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Time passed swiftly during the refinement. After spending nearly eight hours, the troublesome refinement finally entered its end stage.

“Coagulate!”

The cry sounded from within the quiet room. Immediately, a dark-red glow shot out from within the medicinal cauldron. Finally, it was grabbed firmly in Xiao Yan’s palm. He observed it up and down before nodding with satisfaction as he placed the jade bottle into the storage ring.

Although he had successfully refined a ‘Dragon Strength Pill’ during this refinement, he had also destroyed a set of medicinal ingredients. However, Xiao Yan did not feel much heartache just because of this. He clearly knew that being able to possess this success rate of fifty-percent was already quite a good result.

Xiao Yan immediately collapsed with exhaustion after finishing all of this. He took out an ‘Energy Recovery Pill’ from his storage ring and stuffed it into his mouth. He ignored the fatigue that was emitted from all over his body as he hurriedly sat cross-legged and entered into his training mode. Training in this kind of situation where the Dou Qi in his body was completely exhausted reaped twice the benefits with half the effort. The matter of training was just like using drops of water to form a river. One cannot slacken even a little.

The training this time around used up a total of over an hour. Only then did the feeling of an empty interior in Xiao Yan’s body disappear. He sensed the powerful Dou Qi flowing within his veins. He was slightly joyful to discover that the Dou Qi in his body had been enhanced by quite a bit. From the looks of it, the refinement of medicinal pills may cause him to be so tired that he was about to die, but this process was not completely without any benefit.

Xiao Yan exhaled a long breath and stretched his lazy waist. As he heard the sound of his bones cracking against one another, a comfortable and delightful feeling of recovering from extreme fatigue spread out from deep within his heart, causing a smile to hang on the corner of his mouth.

“Now that we have obtained the ‘Asparagus Ice Fire Fruit’, I only lack the

final rank 6 water affinity Monster Core before it is possible to refine the 'Ground Spirit Pill'." Xiao Yan's finger gently rubbed his storage ring. Immediately, that alluring fruit that had ice and fire in one entity appeared in his hand.

"Rank 6... ah, that is equivalent to a Magical Beast that is as strong as an expert of the Dou Huang class. Where would I go and find it..." Xiao Yan rubbed his head and spoke softly.

"Let's think of a solution. I can faintly sense that the 'Fallen Heart Flame' in the 'Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower' is becoming increasingly stronger recently. I'm afraid that the uprising that I have mentioned isn't far away.." Yao Lao said slowly.

"The moment of the uprising of the 'Fallen Heart Flame' will be our best opportunity to snatch it. We must not let it slip by. Otherwise, it is likely that the trouble we will encounter if we want to snatch it in the future would be at least ten times what it is. Hence, we must bring forward the refining of the 'Ground Spirit Pill' as soon as possible."

Xiao Yan smiled bitterly and nodded. He sighed, "I'll do my best."

"Ke ke, you can relax. If it is really not possible, we can at the very most go into the deep mountains to search for a rank 6 Magical Beast. It is not possible that there isn't a rank 6 Magical Beast hidden within such a vast mountain range." Yao Lao comforted with a laugh.

Xiao Yan smiled when he heard Yao Lao's comforting words. However, he was not completely at ease. Perhaps there was indeed a rank 6 Magical Beast hidden within the mountain range. However, in what way was it easy to kill a Magical Beast of this rank? Moreover, even if he could kill it, it was certain that a large earthshaking battle would erupt. At that time, it was likely that Teacher would be exposed should it alarm the Elders of the Inner Academy. That would be a little troublesome...

Xiao Yan sighed once again. Xiao Yan could only hide these worries. He stored the medicinal cauldron into his storage ring and patted himself. Finally, he stood up and slowly walked out of this quiet room.

.....

Elder Hao watch as Xiao Yan came out of the room. He hurriedly stood up and asked uneasily, "How's your refinement? Did you succeed?" Elder Hao understood a little about medicinal pill refinement. Therefore, he also understood just how high the failure rate of refining a tier five medicinal pill was.

"Ke ke, I failed once, but fortunately, I did not disappoint Elder's expectations." Xiao Yan smiled and nodded. He stepped forward and took out a jade bottle that stored the 'Dragon Strength Pill' before gently placing it on the table.

Elder Hao hurriedly grabbed the jade bottle on the table after seeing it. He carefully took out a round dark-red medicinal pill from within and said in a joyous manner, "You have really succeeded. Little fellow, you really do have some ability. No wonder you are even able to rein in the 'Heavenly Flame'."

Xiao Yan smiled and replied with some modest words when he heard this.

"Since you have refined a 'Dragon Strength Pill', that 'Asparagus Ice Fire Fruit' shall be yours. Ke ke, your eyes are really sharp. The rarity of this thing could be ranked among the top ten even within the entire medicinal warehouse." Elder Hao stored the 'Dragon Strength Pill' properly, and waved his hand in a generous manner. He jokingly said, "If there is any other medicinal ingredients that you need in the future, you can just come and look for me. However, remember our transaction. Ha ha."

"Again? Refining one 'Dragon Strength Pill' has nearly caused me to collapse..." Xiao Yan smiled and thanked Elder Hao while he muttered in his heart. He cupped his hands and was about to bid Elder Hao goodbye when his heart stirred. He asked in a probing manner, "Elder Hao. I still urgently need something at this moment. May I inquire if Elder Hao can help me look for it. If it is possible, Xiao Yan will do his best to refine any medicinal pill that Elder asks for!"

"Oh? What is the thing you need?" Elder Hao's eyes brightened when he heard this as he asked with some interest.

“A rank 6 water affinity Monster Core.” Xiao Yan stared intently at Elder Hao’s face. When he spoke these words, he clearly sensed the other party’s face twitch a little.

“Rank 6... why do you need such a high ranked Monster Core? A rank 6 Magical Beast is equivalent to an elite Dou Huang... With my current strength, I don’t have the courage to look for their Monster Cores. Looks like there is no hope for this transaction.” Elder Hao smiled bitterly and shook his head. His back was emitting cold sweat. Was the appetite of this fellow not a little too great? He actually opened his mouth and directly asked for a rank 6 Monster Core. Did he really think that it was a stone that could be picked up by the road side?

Xiao Yan could only sigh in disappointment when he heard the words of Elder Hao. He said with a bitter smile, “We shall forget about it since Elder does not have one.”

Xiao Yan turned his body and left when he said this. However, after Elder Hao fondled his beard and thought for awhile, he suddenly opened his mouth and said, “It is true that I don’t possess a rank 6 water affinity Monster Core, but I may perhaps be able to refer you to an Elder. He coincidentally has a rank 6 water affinity Monster Core in his hands. One that he had luckily obtained back then.”

Xiao Yan was startled when he heard this. A wild joy immediately swarmed onto his face. “Really? If Elder Hao is able to refer me to him, Xiao Yan will definitely not forget about Elder Hao’s benefits should I be able to obtain the rank 6 Monster Core.”

“You should not get too excited now. That fellow has a stingy character. Back then, he had risked his life in order to rely on some luck to kill a rank 6 Magical Beast that was already seriously injured. Therefore, he has been holding onto the rank 6 Monster Core like a treasure. Occasionally, he will even boast about it in front of us. If you want to exchange for this rank 6 Monster Core from his hand, you need to take out something that he likes. Otherwise, you can be prepared to bleed profusely. Follow me.” Elder Hao waved his hand and immediately led the way out of the door.

Xiao Yan hurriedly nodded. He swiftly followed Elder Hao. Being able to obtain news about a Rank 6 Monster Core at a juncture when he was pressed for time was undoubtedly good news to him. He must obtain that Rank 6 Monster Core no matter the price it took.

# Chapter 536: Exchange

Xiao Yan followed Elder Hao as he walked out of the medicinal management warehouse. They walked slowly while following the main road. There were occasionally some students who saw the two of them walking side by side along the way. Surprise flashed across their faces. Elder Hao always looked at the others with a cold face. Therefore, other people both feared and respected him. All of them felt extremely surprised when they saw that he engaged in a smiling conversation with Xiao Yan. On top of being surprised, they could not help but view Xiao Yan a little more seriously. Everyone clearly knew the authority of these Elders within the Inner Academy. If someone did not open their eyes and offended them, these Elders may find trouble. Abusing one's authority for one's private purposes was something that inevitably existed even within this Inner Academy.

Xiao Yan did not pay much attention to those gazes along the way. Due to Elder Hao being by his side, even some of the students who recognized him and wanted to step forward to issue a challenge also weighed the situation and shrank back. Therefore, it saved Xiao Yan a lot of trouble.

“That Elder is called Liu Ying, he is the Tower Guardian Elder of the fifth level of the ‘Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower’. It is his turn to rest today, therefore, we can directly go to his living quarters.” Elder Hao told Xiao Yan some of the matters related to that Elder along the way.

Xiao Yan nodded slightly when he heard this.

“You can simply state the purpose of your visit when you see that fellow. Although his temper is a little strong, you need not be afraid of him. He will not do anything to you.”

Xiao Yan smiled. He mused for a moment before asking, “Does this Elder Liu have anything that he specially likes?” Xiao Yan naturally needed to cater to the Elder's liking if he wanted to successfully obtain the rank 6 Monster Core from the other person's hands.

“What does he like... you should clearly understand that upon reaching a



class like ours, it is very difficult to move us with ordinary valuables. Instead, some of the things that could aid us in our training possess an enormous attraction to us. Although that fellow is stingy, he is extremely obsessed with training. If you are able to take out an item that would benefit his training, I think that he should be attracted.” Elder Hao voiced his thoughts.

“Something that benefits his training...” Xiao Yan muttered softly, “May I know what is the affinity of the Qi Method that this Elder practices?”

“Fire affinity. It is precisely because of this that his temper is a little strong.” Elder Hao replied and smiled.

“Fire affinity...” Xiao Yan smiled and nodded slightly. He now had a small understanding within his heart.

Elder Hao could not help but be a little stunned when he saw the manner of Xiao Yan. Was this fellow really able to take out something that would move that stingy old fellow? That’s right. He is an alchemist. Ordinarily speaking, he should have stored some treasures.

As the two of them conversed along the way, they had unknowingly approached the inner regions of the Inner Academy. This place was the residence of the Inner Academy Elders and Instructors. The environment was quiet and peaceful. It was many times better than the hostel of the students. This was nothing strange. With the powerful strength of these Elders, the treatment that they received was naturally not something that students like them could compare with.

They passed through a lush green area before Elder Hao gradually slowed his footsteps a while later. Finally, he stopped at a house that was completely built by emerald-green bamboo.

“This Elder Liu really knows how to enjoy himself.” Xiao Yan could not help but feel some surprise in his heart when he saw this bamboo house.

Elder Hao in front of him had lifted his hand and was just about to knock on the door when a powerful and impatient voice was emitted from behind the door, “Just come in if you want to. Why do you need to knock the door? You like this antiquated method. Can’t you be more direct?”

Xiao Yan let out a bitter laugh when he heard the words that were transmitted from within the house. Only then did he understand why Elder Hao told him to directly express the purpose of his visit. Clearly, this was an impatient fellow. He would not accept someone who spoke to him in a roundabout manner.

Elder Hao did not feel anything at this moment. He pushed open the door as though he was used to it and walked in while holding a smile on his face as he said, "Elder Liu. I have brought someone with me and I'm afraid that you will have to see him."

"Who is it?" Xiao Yan also followed Elder Hao and walked into the house. However, he coincidentally saw a red-robed old man walking in the house. At this moment, the old man's sleepy eyes were still a little bleary. It appeared that he had just escaped from his sleep. He spoke as he walked and only raised his head when he was at the front of the house. When his gaze drifted toward the young man whose appearance was unclear because of the light from behind him, Elder Liu could not help but frown and said, "Brat, where have you come from. Don't tell me that you have been chased out of the 'Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower' by some Elders and want me to go and plead for you?"

"Student Xiao Yan greets Elder Liu." Xiao Yan smiled slightly, took a step forward and spoke with his hands cupped together.

"Ah... huh? Xiao Yan? That Xiao Yan who is able to refine a tier five medicinal pill?" Elder Liu had merely responded with an indifferent sound initially. After all, he had seen too many students who had come here to beg for mercy and was already too lazy to be bothered by their complaints. However, he was a little startled after he heard the somewhat familiar name. His gaze hurriedly shifted to Xiao Yan's face as he opened his mouth and spoke in a surprised manner.

Xiao Yan smiled and nodded. He did not expect that his status as an alchemist was so useful. Even this Elder had hurriedly changed his expression when he heard his name.

"Ke ke, this name is extremely well known. Sit. What reason do you have

to look for me?” Elder Liu smiled and waved his hand toward Xiao Yan. He sat on the chair before returning to his impatient character as he asked in a pressing manner.

Xiao Yan tilted his head slightly toward Elder Hao and exchanged glances with him when he heard this. The latter spread his hand, indicating that Xiao Yan would have to handle the remaining matters. Xiao Yan helplessly nodded and mused for a moment. He exercised some discretion in his words before he smiled and said, “This time around, I have come to look for Elder Liu mainly because this little me is currently lacking something. Coincidentally, Elder Liu is in possession of this thing. Xiao Yan will definitely provide a great reward if Elder Liu promises to exchange this thing with little me.”

“Lacking something?” Elder Liu was a little startled. His expression did not change as he placed down the teacup in his hand and said, “What is it? Tell me. I will not reject as long as it is not an extremely valuable item.”

“A rank 6 water affinity Monster Core.” Xiao Yan mentioned casually.

“Crack!”

Xiao Yan’s words had just sounded when the teacup in Elder Liu’s hand in front of him could not resist the sudden increase in strength. With a clear sound, it turned into a pile of fragments.

“Cough...” Elder Hao coughed softly by the side. This fellow really did view that thing as his life. It appeared that it was going to be quite difficult for Xiao Yan to obtain it this time around.

“Hmph. This randomly gossiping fellow is the one who tells you that I possess a rank 6 Monster Core right?” Elder Liu rubbed away the water traces on his hand and stared at Elder Hao. Although the First Elder had quietly informed them to look after Xiao Yan, they did not need to look after him to such an extent did they? A rank 6 Monster Core was a rare thing no matter how one placed it. Moreover, this thing is something that he had obtained after risking his life back then. How could he easily give it to someone else?

“I will openly tell you that I will not give the rank 6 Monster Core to

anyone. You should not waste your effort.” In an attempt to remove this thought of Xiao Yan’s, Elder Liu’s first sentence was extremely firm.

Elder Hao shook his head helplessly. It appeared that there was not much hope for the manner today.

“Ke ke, Elder Liu, a rank 6 Monster Core may indeed be valuable, but it is not something that truly does not have a price. You practice fire affinity Qi Method. Such a water affinity Monster Core does not have the slightest benefit to you. The only reason that you reject me without even thinking should be that you are worried that I am unable to take out something that would truly attract Elder Hao, no?” Xiao Yan did not feel dejected just because of Elder Liu’s firm manner. He smiled slightly before speaking in a slow manner.

Elder Liu rolled his eyes but did not reply. A rank 6 Magical Beast was something that even the current him could not defeat. Although he viewed this rank 6 Monster Core as a treasure, he was not a fool who hugged it until his old age. This Monster Core may possess a powerful energy but that was a kind of wild and violent energy that had not been refined. A human body would not easily absorb it. Therefore, he would naturally not reject if there was someone who was able to take out something that would move him to exchange for it. However, with the age of Xiao Yan in front of him, Elder Liu really had difficulty believing just how valuable the thing that he could take out was.

“Elder Liu should also know that this rank 6 Monster core is unable to be of much use in your hands. Therefore, it would be the best choice to exchange it for something. Elder need not be stubborn. Why don’t you open your mouth and tell me what you want. If Xiao Yan possesses it, I will naturally take it out.” Xiao Yan spoke softly.

“Hey, I say, you should not be so antiquated. Although Xiao Yan is young, there might be more treasures on him than you. There will no longer be this shop once you pass this village.” Elder Hao fanned the flames by the side.

TL: There will no longer be this shop once you pass this village –

meaning there will no longer be this opportunity once you miss it.

Elder Liu's face alternated between green and white. A long while later, his tensed face finally relaxed. He rubbed his nose and said, "It is possible if you want to exchange for this rank 6 Monster Core from my hands as long as you give me a 'Dou Ling Pill'!"

"Dou Ling Pill? Don't you have a lion's mouth, old fellow who won't die?" Elder Hao by the side immediately leaped up when Elder Liu's voice sounded. The former widened his eyes and scolded, "That is a tier 6 medicinal pill. How can Xiao Yan refine it with his current strength? Aren't you making things difficult for others?"

Elder Liu smacked his lips and ignored him. He only used his gaze to watch Xiao Yan.

Xiao Yan frowned slightly. His finger gently tapped on the surface of the table. It was a long while later before he shook his head slightly and said, "I am indeed unable to take out this 'Dou Ling Pill'."

Elder Liu was immediately disappointed when he heard this. He waved his hand in a dissipated manner and said, "Please leave if you don't have it."

"However..." Xiao Yan smiled. He flicked his finger gently on his storage ring. Immediately, a thumb-sized green-colored lotus seed appeared in his palm. The green-colored lotus seed had just appeared when a powerful fiery hot energy reverberated within the room.

Xiao Yan smiled and spoke as he eyed Elder Liu, who had straightened in an instant. "I think that Elder Liu might have some interest in this thing."

# Chapter 537: Obtaining It

The green-colored lotus seed lay quietly in Xiao Yan's hand emitting a faint glow. Although it was quite small, the powerful hot energy that it contained caused even Elder Liu's and Elder Hao's faces to be filled with surprise.

This green-colored lotus seed was the additional item that Xiao Yan had found when searching for the 'Green Lotus Core Flame' within the Great Tager Desert, the 'Ground-Fire Lotus Seed'. This kind of Fire Lotus Seed was agglomerated and formed from fire affinity energy after a long duration of time. Therefore, it greatly benefited those who practiced fire affinity Dou Qi. Back then, Xiao Yan had obtained a total of eleven 'Ground-Fire Lotus Seed'. He had consumed one himself. Hence, he was left with only ten of them.

Back when Xiao Yan had just obtained the Fire Lotus Seeds, Yao Lao had told him that he should try his best to avoid revealing it in front of others. Otherwise, he might end up with a lot of trouble for no other reason besides the arousal of other people's greed. Things were different now. Currently, Xiao Yan was no longer that small Dou Shi he was back then. There were also many trump cards that he had now. Even if he were to face an elite Dou Wang, Xiao Yan would be able to withdraw in one piece. Moreover, he was currently within the Inner Academy, and did not need to worry that these Elders would quietly attack him just because they desired his things.

The atmosphere within the room was quiet. The slightly hot energy fluctuation appeared to have created a faint hot wind within the room.

Elder Liu's eyes stared directly at the 'Ground-Fire Lotus Seed'. The glow in his eyes grew increasingly intense. If he were able to absorb all of this powerful energy, it was likely that his strength, which had not seen any movement for a long time, would once again obtain an advancement! He let out a heavy sigh in his heart. It was really unexpected that Xiao Yan was actually able to take out such a treasure. Although this 'Ground-Fire Lotus Seed' did not possess an attraction that was as large as a 'Dou Ling

Pill' in the eyes of a Dou Wang, Elder Liu also clearly understood that unless he met a true sucker, it would be quite difficult for him to exchange a 'Dou Ling Pill' from the hands of other alchemists with this rank 6 Monster Core. The exchange terms that he had mentioned earlier was just as Elder Hao described earlier. He really had a lions mouth, demanding more than what was fair.

“Cough” A soft coughing sound suddenly sounded, causing the two Elders, who had descended into silence to recover. They exchanged glances with one another, and gave awkward smiles.

Elder Liu coughed dryly. His gaze partially loomed over Xiao Yan's hand as he studied it. His originally somewhat sunken face had an additional smile, “May I know what this thing in your hand is?”

“This is a lotus seed formed from the coagulation of the core flame. It is something that the little me had obtained with luck. It is rumored that it requires at least a hundred years for such a lotus seed to take form.” Xiao Yan smiled. Since no one recognized it, the other party would be stunned even if he said it took a thousand years.

“Oh.” Elder Liu nodded slightly. The skin on his face twitched a little, feeling uncertain about whether he should believe it.

“What do you say, Elder Liu? This 'Ground-Fire Lotus Seed' may not be comparable to a 'Dou Ling Pill,' but it is also an extremely rare item. Moreover, it even possesses such pure fire affinity energy. I'm afraid that the benefits it has for you are far more than what that rank 6 water affinity Monster Core can compare with.” Xiao Yan smiled and said.

Elder Hao licked his mouth. His expression was filled with hesitation and indecision. Although this 'Ground-Fire Lotus Seed' was rare, he really felt that it was difficult to just hand over the most precious rank 6 Monster Core to exchange for it within this short period of time. His finger knocked against the table and the expression on his face was volatile. It was a long while later before he slowly spoke, “I would lose out if my rank 6 Monster core is exchanged for just one 'Ground-Fire Lotus Seed'...” He suddenly slammed the table at the end of his words and said,

“If you were to take out another ‘Ground-Fire Lotus Seed’, I will endure the pain in my heart and hand this rank 6 Monster Core to you.”

Elder Hao’s face twitched when he heard these words by the side. However, he did not open his mouth to interrupt. Instead, he merely used his gaze to glance at Xiao Yan, appearing to be waiting for his decision.

Xiao Yan frowned slightly. This ‘Ground-Fire Lotus Seed’ was extremely rare. He had been unwilling to consume it unless it was a critical moment. This was because he was uncertain whether he would need them when he wanted to refine some higher tier medicinal pills in the future. These things only formed in the place where the ‘Green Lotus Core Flame’ was born. However, just how many places in this world could one find the ‘Green Lotus Core Flame’? Therefore, he would basically lose one ‘Ground-Fire Lotus Seed’ each time he used it. It was already his limit now that he had taken out one pill to exchange for Elder Liu’s rank 6 Monster Core. It would be Xiao Yan’s turn to feel pain if he were to add another one.

“Ah, I have only luckily obtained one ‘Ground-Fire Lotus Seed’. Elder Liu, you are really making things difficult for me if you want me to add another.” Xiao Yan let out a sigh and shook his head. He slowly withdrew his palm and kept the ‘Ground-Fire Lotus Seed’. From the looks of it, he actually had the intention to give up this transaction.

Anxiety flashed across Elder Liu’s eyes when he saw Xiao Yan’s action. He forcefully suppressed the impulse in his heart as he gave Xiao Yan a forceful smile and said, “Little fellow, this ‘Ground-Fire Lotus Seed’ may be rare, but you should also clearly be aware of the value of a rank 6 Monster Core. How many people would dare to place their intention on a Magical Beast that could contend against an elite Dou Huang? With the exception of the First Elder, this rank 6 Monster Core in my hands is perhaps the only one among all the many Elders of the Inner Academy.”

The meaning of these words were undoubtedly secretly reminding Xiao Yan that only he himself possessed a rank 6 Monster Core in his hand within this Inner Academy. If Xiao Yan did not exchange with him, the former might end up empty-handed.



“I also wish to. Unfortunately, I am unable to fork out the price that Elder wants.” Although Elder Liu hid his anxiety quite well, his original character was not suited for such concealment of his feelings. Therefore, Xiao Yan, who was sitting on the opposite side, was able to clearly grasp this thread of emotion. Immediately, he let out a snicker within his heart. On the surface, however, he sighed and shook his head. He actually stood up slowly and stored the ‘Ground-Fire Lotus Seed’ back into his storage ring. After which, he cupped his hands toward Elder Liu before speaking to Elder Hao beside him with a bitter smile, “Elder Hao, let’s leave.”

“Ah, forget it. It is alright that you are unable to exchange for it. Later, I will help you inquire with the First Elder.” Elder Hao helplessly nodded as he stood up and spoke to Xiao Yan.

The eyes of Elder Liu, who was seated beside him, twitched upon hearing this. He was slightly furious as he quietly cursed. When he saw that Xiao Yan had turned around and was about to leave, he was finally unable to endure it any longer. He hurriedly stood up and said, “Little friend Xiao Yan, don’t be in such a hurry to leave. We can continue to discuss.”

Xiao Yan’s footsteps paused for a moment. His heart finally sighed in relief when he heard Elder Liu open his mouth. He turned his head slightly, only to see the smile on Elder Hao’s face and was instantly startled. Elder Hao had actually understood Elder Liu’s impatient manner. Therefore, he had fanned the flame.

Xiao Yan threw a gaze of gratitude to Elder Hao. Only then did he turn around and speak with a helpless look on his face, “Elder Liu, it is not that I am unwilling to exchange but I am really unable to take out a second ‘Ground-Fire Lotus Seed’.”

Elder Liu’s face turned slightly red. He wanted to obtain that ‘Ground-Fire Lotus Seed’, but felt heartache over the value of the rank 6 Monster Core. He became somewhat silent immediately. After struggling in this manner for a while, he finally sighed in a dissipated manner and said, “It is fine that you don’t add another ‘Ground-Fire Lotus Seed’. However, you must promise me one thing.”

“What is it?” Xiao Yan asked cautiously.

“Help me refine one ‘Dragon Strength Pill’.” Elder Liu sighed. He was dissatisfied to simply take one ‘Ground-Fire Lotus Seed’. Therefore, he must definitely get something else. Only then will his heart be in equilibrium.

“Refining a ‘Dragon Strength Pill’ huh...” Xiao Yan rejoiced within his heart when he heard this. On the surface, however, he hesitated for a moment before speaking, “Alright. However, according to the rules, Elder Liu must prepare the ingredients for the refinement by yourself.”

“You... you stingy fellow!” Elder Liu immediately blew at his beard somewhat angrily when he heard Xiao Yan’s words. After cursing loudly, however, he suddenly became dispirited. With a wave of his hand, he said, “Alright I will prepare the medicinal ingredients by myself, by myself. Little fellow, you are a little too stingy. Can’t a young person be a little more generous?”

“I cannot be a little more generous on this. Even I myself cannot gather all the ingredients needed to refine the ‘Dragon Strength Pill’, where will I find them to help you refine it?” Xiao Yan muttered in his heart. The ‘Dragon Strength Pill’ that he gave Elder Hao was refined from the medicinal ingredients that the latter had prepared himself. Although these medicinal ingredients cannot be compared to the ‘Ground-Fire Lotus Seed’, they were still quite rare. It was likely that he would have to waste a lot of time if he were to go and search for them by himself.

A glow flicked from the storage ring on Elder Liu’s hand. An azure-colored crystal body that was the size of a fist appeared in his hand. Following the appearance of the azure-colored crystal, the originally dry room immediately became somewhat fresh and cool as well as a little moist.

Elder Liu rubbed this azure crystal body whose shape was not uniform, unwilling to part with it. A moment later, he clenched his teeth and gently placed it on the table. He said, “Ah, take it, take it.”

Xiao Yan’s eyes stared intently at the blue-colored crystal on the table.

The slight glow which it emitted was gentle and did not pierce one's eyes. One could even vaguely hear a little wave sounds resonate from the crystal body. A fieriness rose quietly within Xiao Yan's heart. His expression did not change as he took a step forward. He held it in his hand under the extremely painful gaze of Elder Liu. Only after he sensed the powerful water affinity energy like a surging river did he sigh in relief and appeared to have been freed from a heavy burden. He had finally obtained this final thing that he needed to refine the 'Ground Spirit Pill'.

"Ke ke, Elder Liu. You can keep this 'Ground-Fire Lotus Seed' first. As for the 'Dragon Strength Pill', I will help Elder refine it once you send the medicinal ingredients that you have gathered to 'Pan's Gate'." Xiao Yan swiftly stored the rank 6 water affinity Monster Core into his storage ring before smiling and respectfully handing over the 'Ground-Fire Lotus Seed' in his hand to Elder Liu.

Elder Liu shook his head with a bitter smile. He grabbed this 'Ground-Fire Lotus Seed'. Only after sensing the enormous fire affinity energy within it did his expression become a little better. He let out a faint 'ai' sound before waving his hand toward Xiao Yan and Elder Hao.

Xiao Yan knew that Elder Liu was definitely in somewhat of a bad mood at this moment. Therefore, he did not dare to continue remaining here. He secretly laughed in his heart before exchanging a look with Elder Hao. The both of them left with their limbs feeling light, leaving behind Elder Liu, whose expression alternated between joy and pain as he held the 'Ground-Fire Lotus Seed'. The latter was alone in the room, tasting the feeling of conflict.

# Chapter 538: Refining the Ground Spirit Pill

Xiao Yan and Elder Hao exchanged glances with one another as they walked out of Elder Liu's room. Both of them involuntarily laughed out loud.

"Elder Hao, I really have to thank you very much this time around." Xiao Yan walked a little closer and softly said, "There will definitely be a reward for you in the future."

"Ke ke, this is but a small matter. Our ears will be a little quieter now that that fellow has lost the thing he boasts about in front of us." Elder Hao waved his hand. However, from the looks of his expression, Xiao Yan's words still caused him to be quite happy. After all, he already had some intention of befriending Xiao Yan after witnessing the latter's refinement skills. He was already quite happy at being able to get a tier five alchemist to owe him a favor that was neither large nor small.

The two of them chatted and laughed as they walked out of this quiet area where the Elders resided. The two of them separated at a fork in the road. Elder Hao needed to return to guard the medicinal warehouse, and Xiao Yan needed to return to 'Pan's Gate'.

Xiao Yan stood at the forked road and eyed Elder Hao's back which had disappeared. He let out a long sigh, and the joy within his heart involuntarily surfaced on his face. Now that he had fully prepared all the things he needed, all that was left was the refinement. However, the 'Ground Spirit Pill' was a tier 6 medicinal pill. With his current strength, he could merely refine some common tier 5 medicinal pills. He need not even be bothered about thinking of a tier 6 medicinal pill. Therefore, it was likely that Yao Lao would need to act to refine the 'Ground Spirit Pill'.

"Now, we are pressed for time. There is no telling when the 'Fallen Heart Flame' will erupt. Therefore, it is best to refine this 'Ground Spirit Pill' as soon as possible." Yao Lao's voice also quietly sounded within Xiao Yan's heart while the latter was in deep thought.

Xiao Yan raised his head slightly. He eyed the deserted area around him and nodded his head without leaving a trace. His footsteps walked toward the area where 'Pan's Gate' was located as he softly asked in his heart, "In that case, when does Teacher intend to act?"

"It is for best that we do it during these next few days." Yao Lao voiced his thoughts, "You should first rest for one to two days. After which, we will need to enter deep into the mountains once again. Some unusual phenomenon occurs in the sky when refining a tier 6 medicinal pill. Moreover, this 'Ground Spirit Pill' can be considered among the top even within the tier 6 medicinal pills. Hence, there might be quite a great movement. As such, we will definitely be exposed if we were to refine it within the Inner Academy."

Xiao Yan nodded his head, indicating that he understood. He quietly mused for a while within his heart before he gradually hastened his footsteps. A short while later, he appeared outside of 'Pan's Gate'. Perhaps it was because it was currently at night, but the people who were waiting at this place to challenge him had all disappeared. This caused Xiao Yan to save the trouble of secretly flying in again. He arranged his robes before openly walking in through the main entrance.

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Xiao Yan spent the next two days training quietly within 'Pan's Gate'. He did not enter the 'Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower'. Moreover, no problems occurred within 'Pan's Gate' during these two days. Currently, the sale of medicinal pills by 'Pan's Gate' dominated seventy-percent of the market of the academy. An increasing number of older students had also wanted to enter after hearing the name of 'Pan's Gate'. Moreover, the number of alchemists in 'Pan's Gate' increased from the original three to the current six after a stringent selection period. Therefore, the speed at which the medicinal pills were refined had also increased by quite a lot.

Currently, the strength of 'Pan's Gate' was already a faction that was sufficient enough to rival that of some of the top tier factions within the Inner Academy under the support of the powerful 'Fire Energy'. Moreover, two strong people who had reached the strength of three star Dou Lings

ended up joining 'Pan's Gate' due to the attraction of the reward and punishment system that Xun Er and the others had set up. This was something that Xiao Yan had not expected.

Hence, 'Pan's Gate' currently possessed three elite Dou Lings if these two Dou Ling were included. This line-up caused it to have the qualification to truly become a top tier faction. Moreover, under the support of its powerful finances, someone who was able to become a member of 'Pan's Gate' already possessed the capital to boast to people around them.

The current 'Pan's Gate' was as different as the clouds in the sky and the mud on the ground when compared to the 'Pan's Gate' formed from new students half a year ago.

By being able to transform a mediocre faction into a powerful one within half a year, Xiao Yan's name also began to spread around the Inner Academy in an increasingly loud manner. Although he was merely ranked thirty-four on the 'Strong Ranking', his reputation was enough to catch up with those top experts in the top ten.

Xiao Yan finally ended his training retreat on the third day. He had firmly stabilized his strength at the one star Dou Ling level today. Moreover, his Dou Qi had also advanced quite significantly due to him refining medicinal pills a couple of times. According to this speed, he would not need much time to enter into the peak of a one star Dou Ling.

Xiao Yan walked downstairs after coming out of his room. He saw Hu Jia's figure within the hall, and felt a much stronger Qi from her. Xiao Yan understood that she had actually benefited from her misfortune of being injured this time, allowing her to breakthrough to the level of a nine star Da Dou Shi. With her training talent, she might not need much time before she truly breakthrough to become a Dou Ling. At that time, 'Pan's Gate' would have an additional Dou Ling. Oh no, it should be two more. He must not exclude that battle lunatic Wu Hao. With the way he crazily fought everyday in the Fighting Arena, Xiao Yan guessed that the latter might well enter the Dou Ling class earlier than Hu Jia.

Xiao Yan walked into the hall and carelessly ate some breakfast. He briefly told Xun Er that he needed to once again enter the deep mountains this time around. The latter also felt somewhat stunned when she heard that Xiao Yan was going back after having only just returned for a couple of days. However, she found it hard to say anything to stop Xiao Yan when she saw his serious expression. All she did was merely nod her head obediently.

“Go, be careful. I will take care of ‘Pan’s Gate’.” Xun Er said with a soft smile when she saw Xiao Yan standing up and preparing to leave after having eaten his breakfast.

“Ai, you have all worked really hard. I will return after a couple of days this time around.” Xiao Yan smiled and nodded to Xun Er and Hu Jia. He pulled open the door and an eye-piercing sunlight caused him to narrow his eyes. Immediately, he let out a smile and proudly walked out.

Xiao Yan ran to the exit of the Inner Academy after leaving ‘Pan’s Gate’. Only after leaving the Inner Academy did he search for a remote location. After which, he summoned his Purple Cloud Wings and swiftly rose into the air. His body transformed into a black shadow that swiftly flew into the deep mountains.

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Xiao Yan flapped the Purple Cloud Wings and flew for nearly an hour. After he figured out that he had already entered the middle region of the mountain range, he gradually slowed down. He spent half an hour searching a precipitous mountain peak that was merely a few dozen feet wide before slowly descending.

These few mountain peaks were nearly completely vertical. If one did not borrow the help of wings, it was impossible to climb to its peak without the support of powerful Dou Qi. Moreover, there were a couple of even taller mountain peaks standing around it. Coincidentally they covered this small mountain peak within enormous lush green trees.

Yao Lao’s figure immediately drifted out when Xiao Yan landed on the top of this small mountain. The former eyed his surroundings before

nodding with some satisfaction.

“You should not be too far away while I am refining the ‘Ground Spirit Pill’. You need to carefully observe my refining methods. Although you are able to be extremely sought after no matter where you are given your current medicinal refinement skills, you still have an extremely large gap when compared with a true alchemist grandmaster.” Yao Lao spoke to Xiao Yan in a solemn manner.

“Yes.” Xiao Yan hurriedly nodded when he heard this. Being able to observe an alchemist grandmaster refining a medicinal pill was something that one might encounter, but could not wish for. It had extremely great benefits for him.

TL: something that one might encounter, but could not wish for – meaning that if one is lucky one will meet it. Otherwise, one will not get the chance regardless of how much they desire

“Of course, you must keep a distance from the unnatural phenomenon when the pill is formed. Otherwise, it would be troublesome if you are accidentally injured.” Yao Lao sat cross-legged on the grass as he reminded.

Xiao Yan nodded once again.

“Take out the medicinal ingredients.” Yao Lao’s expression gradually became solemn as he exhaled a deep breath of air and instructed.

Xiao Yan swiftly took out the few extremely rare medicinal ingredients from his storage ring when he heard Yao Lao’s instruction. He placed them orderly in front of him. In an instant, a rich medicinal fragrance covered this small mountain peak. When one inhaled a deep breath, it caused one to feel relaxed and happy.

Yao Lao’s gaze slowly swept over the few medicinal ingredients. He nodded slightly before waving his hand toward Xiao Yan. The ancient dark-black ring on the latter’s hand immediately came off automatically. Finally, it floated in front of Yao Lao.

The black-colored ring glowed and flickered. Immediately, a five-foot-



tall, dark-black medicinal cauldron suddenly appeared.

The entire body of the dark-black medicinal cauldron had strange flame lines painted all over it. At a glance, those flames appeared to have intelligence. They wiggled slightly appearing to be living creatures.

The appearance of this medicinal cauldron caused Xiao Yan's mouth to salivate more. Back then, he had seen Yao Lao summon it before. However, he was basically a novice back then. How would he be painstakingly aware of just how valuable this medicinal cauldron was within the alchemist world?

"Black Demon... tsk tsk. When can I get my hands on one of these medicinal cauldrons which is on the 'Heavenly Cauldron Ranking'?" Xiao Yan's gaze was blurred as he eyed this dark-black medicinal cauldron with an extraordinary aura. His tone was filled with desire as he spoke. The medicinal cauldrons that he used in the past were totally piles of garbage when compared with this 'Black Demon'.

Yao Lao eyed those glowing eyes of Xiao Yan and shook his head, not knowing whether to laugh or cry. He said, "This kind of medicinal cauldron which is ranked within the 'Heavenly Cauldron Rank' possesses some spirituality. Moreover, I have also applied a spiritual imprint on this 'Black Demon'. Currently, you are unable to use it. I will be able to remove the spiritual imprint once I possess a body that can host a spirit. You will be able to randomly use it at that time."

Xiao Yan let out silly laughter.

"Alright. The refinement is about to begin. Little fellow, don't be distracted." Yao Lao laughed. His face gradually became serious. It was apparent how serious he was toward this refinement through his act of summoning the 'Black Demon' to refine the medicinal pill.

A shriveled eagle claw like illusionary hand extended slightly. Immediately, a cluster of thick white flame appeared out of nowhere.

The surrounding temperature declined greatly the moment the thick white flame appeared. Although the temperature had declined, the flame rose even more intensely. The two completely opposite perceptions caused

it to appear extremely strange.

Yao Lao waved his hand. The thick white flame instantly swarmed into the medicinal cauldron. In an instant, a raging intense flame rose from within the cauldron.

At this moment, the refinement of the tier 6 'Ground Spirit Pill' had officially begun!

# Chapter 539: Stir of Activity

A dense white-colored flame was partially visible among the green shade of the lush green mountain peak, much like a ghostly flame.

Yao Lao's expression was serious as he eyed the swiftly rising dense white flame within the medicinal cauldron. Due to the quality of the 'Black Demon' cauldron being exceptionally extraordinary, this initial step of warming the cauldron required a little bit longer compared to other ordinary cauldrons. However, Yao Lao's medicinal refinement skills and his degree of control over the 'Bone Chilling Flame' naturally enabled him to forego this extra time needed. Therefore, Yao Lao's hand waved at the few medicinal ingredients on the ground in front of him after the flame withered for nearly one minute. Immediately, the fiery red 'Flame Core Ganoderma' slowly flew up and was finally thrown into the medicinal cauldron.

The moment the 'Flame Core Ganoderma' entered the medicinal cauldron, the dense white flame swallowed it like a hungry wolf pouncing on its meal. In an instant, the former began to swiftly wither.

Xiao Yan's eyes stared intently at the interior of the medicinal cauldron. Although the flame within the cauldron was blazing, he was able to sense that the temperature of the flame had been suppressed by Yao Lao to a very precise degree. Therefore, this flame may have appeared ferocious, but it did not incinerate the 'Flame Core Ganoderma' until it turned into ashes. Instead, under a gradual withering, blood-colored tiny and dense water droplets seeped out from within the 'Flame Core Ganoderma'. Finally, they rolled down along the surface and were suspended over the flame, repeatedly rolling and turning.

Following the repeated grilling and blood-colored water droplets seeping out, the fiery red-colored surface of the 'Flame Core Ganoderma' also swiftly withdrew. An instant later, the 'Flame Core Ganoderma' was completely transformed into a withered gray color. At this moment, the medicinal strength essence that was contained within it had been completely forced out by the flame. Hence, its original body had

completely turned into a useless scrap.

Yao Lao waved his hand. The withered 'Flame Core Ganoderma' rushed out from the medicinal cauldron. Finally, it landed on the grass to the side. It turned into a pile of gray-colored soot the instant it landed on the ground, and scattered with the winds.

"He is indeed an alchemist grandmaster. This refinement technique is far from what I can compare with." Xiao Yan quietly praised as he eyed the soot-stained ground. He basically completely burned the medicinal ingredient when he was refining medicinal ingredients in the past. This could not be attributed to the ferocity of the flame. Instead, it could only be said that his degree of control of the flame had yet to truly reach the pinnacle. Only by being able to control the temperature the instant the medicinal ingredient was truly withered and being able to toss the withered remnants out of the medicinal cauldron with ease just like Yao Lao, could one be said to have truly perfect control.

A cluster of blood-red liquid rolled and rotated within the medicinal cauldron. It was just like a blood-colored droplet. This blood-colored liquid was the medicinal strength essence that came from the initial refinement of the 'Flame Core Ganoderma'. The energy that was contained in it was so large that it left one speechless.

After the agglomeration of this blood-red liquid, this liquid did not quietly comply with the refinement like the medicines that Xiao Yan had refined in the past. Instead, numerous blood threads extended out. An extremely powerful energy was contained in the threads of blood. When each blood thread struck the interior wall of the cauldron, it would emit numerous clear sounds of metal colliding.

Under the random collisions of these blood threads, even the medicinal cauldron trembled slightly.

Xiao Yan was startled as he eyed the dense blood tentacles being shot around explosively within the medicinal cauldron. He could not help but smack his mouth. It was indeed worthy of being a medicinal ingredient needed to refine a tier 6 medicinal pill. It actually even possessed the

ability to retaliate. From the looks of the strength of these blood threads, it was likely that those ordinary medicinal cauldrons which Xiao Yan had used would at the very most be able to withstand a couple of hits before it would be filled with holes.

The violent movement of these blood threads did not cause Yao Lao's expression to change. He waved his hand faintly and the dense white-colored flame within the medicinal cauldron suddenly soared. Those blood threads appeared to be shocked the moment they came into contact with the flame, because they hurriedly shrank back. In this way, the originally packed blood threads were completely suppressed into that cluster of red liquid under the large scale encirclement of flame. The liquid no longer dared to randomly charge out under the covetous gaze of the surrounding flame.

“Puff!”

A cluster of dense white flame separated out. Finally, it was suspended below the blood-colored liquid. As the flame rose, it unleashed an extremely hot temperature. In an instant, the surface of the blood-colored liquid immediately began to boil. Numerous tiny bubbles were being formed.

As the bubbles were formed, wisps of extremely faint gray-colored smoke immediately rose. This smoke contained impurities within it. In order to refine a good quality medicinal pill, one must completely expel these impurities. Otherwise, one might end up having difficulty forming a pill due to the saturation of these impurities.

Eliminating the impurities of ordinary medicinal ingredients might at the very most require over ten minutes. However, it was obvious that the ‘Flame Core Ganoderma’ did not belong to that category. Therefore, it only spat out impurities in a lethargic manner even with the presence of such a powerful ‘Heavenly Flame’ like the ‘Bone Chilling Flame’ grilling it. In the end, it basically required the flame to grill it for over ten minutes before it would slowly spit out a wisp of gray-colored smoke. Such stubborn impurities caused Xiao Yan, who was watching from the side, to be somewhat speechless. This was still the result obtained under Yao Lao's

control. If he were to be the one in control, it was likely that he would waste nearly a day's time just on refining the medicinal ingredients. This tier 6 medicinal pill was indeed extremely difficult to refine.

The wait time was extremely dull. However, Xiao Yan did not let himself get distracted. His gaze did not shift away from the medicinal cauldron even once for nearly three hours.

Following three hours of refinement, the impurities within that blood-colored liquid were finally completely removed. The blood-colored liquid with all its impurities removed not only became even rounder, but its color also became a little more transparent. If one were to look at it carefully, one could even see bubbles billowing within.

Yao Lao's face also relaxed a little with the completion of the refinement. He gently flicked his finger, and that cluster of blood-colored liquid within the cauldron immediately slipped out after being wrapped by a cluster of thick white flame. Finally, it was poured into a jade bottle together with the flame.

Xiao Yan was a little surprised when he saw this unique preservation method Yao Lao used. His gaze looked at that jade bottle only to realize that there was actually a faint layer of flame film at the mouth of the bottle. He was immediately startled. Only after musing for a moment did he come to an understanding.

"This kind of preservation is able to allow the medicinal liquid within it to maintain the temperature and purity as when it exited the cauldron. Moreover, it would not be doped with the impurities in the air. However, it requires a high degree of control of one's flame. A jade bottle is brittle. If the temperature is too high, the jade bottle would be burned until it cracked. In the event when one was caught off guard and could not react in time, it would cause the refined medicinal liquid to become completely worthless." Yao Lao slowly said as he waved his hand once again and tossed the 'Green Wood Celestial Vine' into the medicinal cauldron.

Xiao Yan nodded slowly. He quietly remembered this tip within his heart.

The refinement of the 'Green Wood Celestial Vine' was not any easier than that of the 'Flame Core Ganoderma'. Due to the material that the former was made of, its flame resistance was something that even caused Yao Lao to be surprised. The time needed to just expel the medicinal strength from the 'Green Wood Celestial Vine' was over an hour. The refinement that followed took an even longer time. This long four hours caused Xiao Yan to wipe the cold sweat off his face. Yao Lao was able to endure this long because of his powerful spiritual strength. With Xiao Yan's current ability, he could at the very most last for over three hours while refining medicinal pills before he needed to rest. He could only continue refining after waiting for his Dou Qi to recover!

Night had already covered the entire mountain range by the time the 'Green Wood Celestial Vine' turned into a cluster of green-colored liquid that was also preserved in a jade bottle. The thick white flame that was on the peak of a mountain was a little eye-catching amid the nighttime darkness.

Yao Lao did not rest for even a moment after he had completed refining the 'Green Wood Celestial Vine'. He once again began refining the 'Asparagus Ice Fire Fruit'.

Xiao Yan's somewhat tired eyes were once again stimulated with energy as he eyed Yao Lao's tense expression. He once again focused on the refinement. In his heart, he clearly knew that observing a pill refinement of such a level would be extremely beneficial to him. He could not just waste such an opportunity.

The time needed to refine the 'Asparagus Ice Fire Fruit' was similar to that needed to refine the 'Green Wood Celestial Vine'. It was already late into the night by the time the refinement was completed. The stars that were spread across the sky flickered, scattering a weak light,

It must be said that refining a tier six medicinal pill was an extremely troublesome and tiring work. Just the refinement of the medicinal ingredients had nearly taken an entire day. However, it was fortunate that Yao Lao had an extremely great ability. He still did not show the slightest sign of being tired even after refining for an entire day without stop. On

the other hand, Xiao Yan already had dark circles forming under his eyes.

That rank 6 water affinity Monster Core was also completely refined by Yao Lao into a pile of blue-colored powder on the second day. This segment alone exhausted over ten hours of Yao Lao's time. The resistance of the rank 6 Monster Core to the flame was more than dozens of times more intense compared to that of those medicinal ingredients. Moreover, due to the restraint that both elements had with each other, the rich water affinity energy had nearly even rushed out of the medicinal cauldron. However, it was fortunate that Yao Lao had anticipated this. Therefore, it did not result in much losses. However, such torment naturally exhausted a large amount of time.

Xiao Yan sat by the side. He could not help but feel some palpitations as he watched Yao Lao contend with that rank 6 Monster Core. If it was him doing it, he would likely have difficulty subduing this stubborn Monster Core even if he spent three to four days. Moreover, if it was an ordinary flame that was being used, it might even be extinguished by the rich water affinity energy.

However, no matter how tough the process was, the refinement was finally completed. On the third day, the repellence of the few medicinal ingredients, and the powder from the Monster Core began to gradually weaken under the grilling by the 'Bone Chilling Flame' which went on for day and night. With this, they finally began to merge together.

Although it was merging, the speed at which it was doing so was just like a tortoise crawling. It was so slow that it was difficult for one to endure. During this period of time, Xiao Yan could not resist dozing off once even with his mental strength.

Fusing was the most important step in the refinement of medicinal pill. As long as one makes a slight mistake during this period of time, the medicinal ingredients that they had refined with great difficulty would be instantly incinerated. Therefore, even with Yao Lao's ability, he did not dare be distracted on this step. He was too busy to bother even when Xiao Yan had been secretly snoozing off.



Although this step was extremely risky, it was fortunate that there was Yao Lao, who was an alchemist grandmaster, controlling it. Therefore, the worst case scenario did not occur. After two full days of fusing, a faint blue-colored embryonic medicinal pill was slowly forming within the medicinal cauldron.

The instant this embryonic medicinal pill was formed, Xiao Yan clearly sensed the energy around him begin to fluctuate suddenly. That condition was just like a huge rock being thrown into the surface of a calm lake where the enormous waves rolled.

Yao Lao's expression did not change even slightly because of the fluctuating energy in the outside world. His mind was focused intently on the change of the medicinal pill within the medicinal cauldron. This kind of critical juncture did not allow him to be even slightly distracted.

Following the flow of time, that embryonic irregular-shaped pale-blue medicinal pill gradually became round. A bright glow was emitted from within it, rendering the pill until it became like a blue-colored gem.

The instant the medicinal pill started emitting a bright glow, Xiao Yan was somewhat stunned to discover that circular somewhat substance-like energy ripples began to repeatedly surge out in all directions with the medicinal cauldron at its center. That unceasing momentum was quite spectacular.

Xiao Yan swallowed a mouthful of saliva. He did not expect that this tier 6 medicinal pill would actually create such a large reaction when it was formed. No wonder Yao Lao said that they must come into the deep mountains to refine it. If this was in the Inner Academy, it was likely that it would immediately attract everyone from within over.

"You should step back a little. An even greater reaction will come later!" Yao Lao's gaze stared at the interior of the medicinal cauldron in an intent manner as his mouth suddenly let out a reminder.

The Purple Cloud Wings on Xiao Yan's back nearly sprang out together as he heard this. With a flap of the wings, Xiao Yan's body rushed to a region away from the peak of the mountain.

The seal on Yao Lao's hand suddenly changed when he saw that Xiao Yan had moved aside. He let out a low cry from his mouth. In an instant, the thick white flame within the medicinal cauldron suddenly soared. It nearly filled the entire medicinal cauldron. In that instant when his eyes were filled with a thick white color, the bright blue-colored light became increasingly eye-piercing.

The blue-colored light shrank and expanded. Following this expansion, waves of energy ripples began spreading even more quickly. Looking down from above, the mountain rocks rolled and the tree trunks broke wherever these energy ripples spread to. Even the turf flipped open. This powerful destructive strength caused Xiao Yan's throat to involuntarily roll.

The blue-colored glow shrank and expanded at an increasing rate. It was as though the glow was brewing something. This continued for nearly half an hour before the glow suddenly shrank to its smallest point.

The serious look on Yao Lao's face was even denser than it was anytime before this. The glow had shrunk in such a swift manner!

“Bang!”

The spot of light which had suddenly shrunk was maintained for a couple of minutes. Suddenly, it was expanded under Xiao Yan's pupils, who was focusing intently on it. Eventually, the surge in the blue-colored light wrapped around the entire mountain peak. A thunder-like explosion occurred from nowhere. Immediately, a blue-colored light pillar that was twenty feet thick shot into the sky from the medicinal cauldron.

Xiao Yan was stunned as he eyed the enormous blue-colored light pillar that shot into the clouds. He involuntarily inhaled a deep breath of cold air. This reaction... was a little too big right? Even though this place was far from the Inner Academy, it was likely that it would not be possible to escape the senses of some of the powerful Elders, no?

“Hopefully, it will not attract the people from the Inner Academy. Otherwise, there will be some trouble...” Xiao Yan swallowed his saliva. He eyed the light pillar, that did not disappear for a long time, as he muttered with a bitter smile.

# Chapter 540: Medicine Emperor, Han Feng!

Two human figures were seated in a quiet room of a pavilion home within the deep regions of the Inner Academy. One of them was wearing a large black robe and had white hair. His old face was like a monk where it was difficult for a shred of emotion to ripple over it. The back of his hand rested by the window as he eyed the lush greenery outside. A long while later, he spoke in an indifferent voice, "Qin Xuan, what is the activity within the 'Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower' recently?"

"First Elder, the 'Fallen Heart Flame' is becoming less and less calm. Currently, it will writhe out once every half a month. If the Elders had not joined hands to lay an energy mirror knot, it is likely that a great number of deaths and injuries would appear among the students training within the tower." A yellow-clothed old man who was a little hunched was bowing respectfully from behind as he replied.

"It is becoming sooner and sooner huh..." The old man who was addressed as the first Elder sighed gently. He muttered, "Back then, the Headmaster had established the Inner Academy in this place after he discovered the 'Fallen Heart Flame'. At that time, he had said that the repression and seal could only obtain a temporary effect. Instead, the more vicious the seal was, the even more terrifying the eruption in the future would be. From the looks of the trend of the 'Heavenly Flame' this time around, it is indeed extremely powerful. If we are not careful, it might well destroy the entire Inner Academy."

"What can we do?" Anxiety flashed across the face of the yellow-clothed old man as he asked softly, "Why don't we inform the Headmaster to return?"

"The headmaster is roaming around in places far away. He shows himself at times then quickly disappears. How can we inform him?" The First Elder shook his head. He waved his hand and spoke, "From today on, all the leave of the Elders are cancelled. All the Tower Guarding Elders

must return to their post. Once anyone discovers that there is any unusual movement of the 'Fallen Heart Flame' everyone must join hands to seal it. We must not let it completely erupt. Otherwise, the aftermath will be too serious."

"Yes sir!"

"Additionally, prepare a backup plan. Expel all the students from the tower when the 'Fallen Heart Flame' becomes violent. Do not let any student enter!" The First Elder's face was calm and steady. Orders were being given one after another in an orderly fashion from his mouth, "Inform the Outer Academy and tell all the strong people within the academy to prepare to await for orders anytime. If the 'Fallen Heart Flame' were to suddenly erupt, the mirror seal that covers the space of the Inner Academy would shatter. At that time, those fellows from the 'Black-Corner' region would definitely sense the powerful fluctuations of the 'Fallen Heart Flame'. Chaos would arrive once they come to ascertain what it is."

"First Elder is worried about Medicine Emperor Han Feng from the 'Black-Corner Region' right?" The yellow-clothed old man was quiet for a moment before he suddenly spoke.

The glow in the First Elder's eyes flashed as he nodded slowly and said, "Han Feng is an alchemist. The attraction that the 'Heavenly Flame' poses to him is incomparable. Back then, he had faintly guessed about the existence of a 'Heavenly Flame' in the Inner Academy. However, he cannot be certain. It is due to this that he does not dare to have any rash actions. After all, our Jia Nan Academy is not something that just anyone can offend."

"This time around, the eruption of the 'Fallen Heart Flame' will be stronger than any other previous ones. When the seal is broken at that time, Han Feng, with his abnormally sharp Spiritual Perception, will definitely sense the fluctuations from the 'Heavenly Flame'. At that time... he will definitely go all out to snatch it!"

"We naturally need not be afraid of him if he is merely an ordinary elite

Dou Huang, However... this fellow has another identity. He is a tier 6 alchemist. The excellence of his medicinal refining skills are something that even Old Huo from the alchemist department cannot compare with. Once he wants to snatch the 'Heavenly Flame', it is likely that he will use his connections... You should clearly understand just what kind of frightening ability to summon people a tier 6 alchemist has. Moreover... according to the intelligence that I have gathered, Han Yue appears to be also be in control of a kind of 'Heavenly Flame'..." The First Elder's face already carried a slight seriousness when he spoke his last few words.

"What? That fellow already possesses a 'Heavenly Flame'?" The yellow-clothed Elder immediately revealed a shocked face when he heard this. For an alchemist at Han Feng's level, possessing a 'Heavenly Flame' was similar to adding a pair of wings to a tiger. On this point, one could clearly understand just how enormous the help a 'Heavenly Flame' provided an alchemist from the way Xiao Yan was able to refine a tier 5 medicinal pill with just his Dou Ling strength.

"Do not forget who the teacher of this fellow is." The First Elder said indifferently.

"Yao Zun-zhe (Also a power level), Yao Chen!" The face of the yellow-colored old man changed slightly. He spat out a name that was once extremely prominent on the Dou Qi continent. He finally recovered from the shock of that name a long while later. With a frown, he said, "It is rumored that Yao Cheng was also in possession of a kind of 'Heavenly Flame'. Now that he has fallen, it is likely that he passed on that 'Heavenly Flame' to Han Feng, right?"

"I'm not certain. Yao Chen's fall is really too strange. Other than Han Feng, no one is clear about what actually happened. Although the latter said that he had died from a backlash while refining a medicinal pill, this kind of excuse appears a little too far-fetched. With Yao Cheng's medicinal refining skills that were unrivaled in the world, how would he make such a mistake? Perhaps, there are some tricks involved." The First Elder let out a cold laughter as he spoke.

"First Elder, your meaning is...?" The yellow-clothed Elder was startled.

He immediately lowered his voice as he questioned.

“Who knows? I heard that Yao Chen’s old friend, Feng zun-zhe has been investigating this manner during these many years. I think that he does not believe that Yao Chen would die in such a dubious manner.” The First Elder replied with a deeper meaning hidden in his words. He immediately waved his hand and said, “Alright, these matters do not have much relation with us. Currently, the most important thing is that we should tighten our guard against Han Feng. If he were to gather those factions from the ‘Black-Corner Region’ and cooperate with one another, even our Jia Nan Academy would face a headache.”

“Yes, I will immediately go and settle this matter.” The yellow-clothed Elder nodded as he spoke.

The First Elder nodded slightly before asking abruptly, “That’s right, how is that new student who also possesses a ‘Heavenly Flame’, Xiao Yan, like recently?”

“Ke ke, it is rumored that he had entered the deep mountains to train for two months. By the time he returned, he had already broken through to the Dou Ling class. This training speed really leaves one speechless. Moreover, in a pill refining competition with Han Xian, he had even successfully refined a tier 5 medicinal pill.” The yellow-clothed Elder’s voice was filled with amazement.

“Oh?” The face of the First Elder moved slightly. He nodded and said, “He is also an alchemist. Moreover from the looks of the circumstances, his refining ability is quite great. Moreover, he also possess quite a great training talent. It is within reasoning to have such a training speed. Give the instruction that everyone should try their best not to make things difficult for this little fellow. Allow him to do what he wants to do. We might need to rely on him in the future.”

“Yes.” The yellow-clothed Elder nodded once again. The last time they heard this they wondered what use could a feathering boy have. However, ever since news got out that Xiao Yan could refine a tier 5 medicinal pill, the opinion these Elders had toward him had changed quite a lot. A tier 5

alchemist. This status was much more distinguished compared to these Elders whose strengths were at the Dou Wang class.

If a tier 5 alchemist and an elite Dou Wang were to be placed in the same place to get people to invite them, the person who was issuing the invitation would definitely choose a tier 5 alchemist without any hesitation as long as he was not a fool. Although the latter was strong in combat, this little strength was not even worth mentioning under the value that an alchemist could create!

All the Elders in the Inner Academy were extremely clear about this point.

“You should leave first. Pass my instructions to every single Elder.” The First Elder waved his hand. He was just about to ask the yellow-clothed Elder to leave when his expression changed abruptly. Surprise surfaced on his rippleless, old, well-like face at this moment. His eyes looked through the greenery outside the window and directly shot toward the deep mountain range in the distance.

“First Elder?” The yellow-clothed Elder involuntarily cried out in an uncertain manner when he saw this behavior of the First Elder. With his strength, it was still impossible to sense the enormous energy undulation from such a great distance away.

“What a strong undulation. This activity can only be created by a medicinal pill that is at least tier 6!” A glow flashed across the First Elder’s eyes. His gaze appeared to be able to see through the gap in space and was studying a mountain peak deep within the mountains.

“A tier 6 medicinal pill?” The expression of the yellow-clothed Elder by the side also changed greatly. He cried out involuntarily, “There is no one within this Inner Academy who can refine a medicinal pill of such tier.”

“I will need to go and take a look. You should do as I have ordered. Someone who is able to refine a tier 6 medicinal pill... could it be Han Feng?” The First Elder muttered. His expression immediately and suddenly became extremely ugly. It would be something that was far from reassuring if such a great enemy was to quietly sneak into the Inner

Academy.

The body of the First Elder shook the moment his voice sounded. By the time the yellow-clothed Elder raised his head, a black-colored afterimage was already slowly disappearing in front of him. The latter hurriedly lifted his head, and saw a faint black shadow that appeared fleetingly within the sky.

The moment the First Elder discovered the energy fluctuations within the deep mountains, a man within a certain quiet pavilion house in the chaotic region on the other side of the mountain range also raised his head slightly. The man was wearing a green-colored, long-sleeved garment with a maple leaf sewn on the back of it, and the direction his gaze was drawn in was actually the spot where the energy had suddenly erupted from.

The face of the green-clothed man was quite handsome and outstanding. His long black-colored hair dangled to his shoulders. He also appeared to be carrying a strange medicinal fragrance on his body, causing people to involuntarily have a feeling of wanting to get close to him.

“This undulation... it is something that appears when a tier 6 medicinal pill is formed.” The green-clothed man muttered softly. A moment later, he frowned slightly and said, “The other side of the mountain range should be the place where the Jia Nan Academy is located. Could it be old man Huo who is refining it? However, with his medicinal refinement skills, it seems that he would have some trouble refining a tier 6 medicinal pill, no? Don’t tell me that his medicinal refining skills have soared during the few years that I did not see him?”

“This undulation is within the boundary of the Jia Nan Academy and it is not easy for me to go and investigate. Although I am not afraid of the repercussions, there would be some trouble if I am discovered by those old fellows.” The green-clothed man slowly turned around as he shook his head. There was an ancient medicinal cauldron badge on his chest. On it, there were six strange golden flickering slight ripples that pierced people’s eyes until they felt pain.



Six golden lines. It was something that only a tier 6 alchemist had the qualification to wear in the alchemist world. This man whose appearance seemed to be that of someone in his thirties was actually able to wear it. There was only one person of such ability within the 'Black-Corner Region'.

Medicine Emperor, Han Feng!

# Chapter 541: Pill Formed

In the azure sky above the vast mountains, a somewhat coarse energy glow shot into the clouds and did not disappear for a long while.

Yao Lao slowly sat up from the ground. He glanced at the enormous light pillar and frowned slightly. With a beckon of his extended hand, the light pillar immediately trembled. Finally, a thread of blue-colored glow rushed down before being suspended above his hand.

The blue-colored glow gradually diminished. Immediately, it revealed its actual body. It was actually an azure medicinal pill that was the size of a dragon's eye. The surface of the medicinal pill was extremely round and sleek, much like the surface of a sea. The blue lines that faintly remained on it were like numerous waves, appearing extremely mysterious.

Following this thread of blue-colored glow escaping from the light pillar, the enormous light pillar appeared to have lost the support of its energy. It shook slightly before it gradually became illusionary and eventually disappeared altogether.

Xiao Yan only heaved a sigh of relief after eyeing the enormous light pillar completely disappear from the sky. If this activity were to continue, it was likely that the Elders in the Inner Academy would rush over after being alerted. Xiao Yan flapped his wings and slowly landed on the peak of the mountain. He curiously eyed the blue-colored medicinal pill above Yao Lao's hand as he said, "This is the 'Ground Spirit Pill'?"

Yao Lao smiled and nodded. There appeared to be a little tiredness on his face. It appeared that refining a tier 6 medicinal pill as a spiritual body was still quite a burden to him.

Xiao Yan's eyes did not miss the tiredness of Yao Lao's face. He said, "Teacher, you should return to the ring to rest now that the pill has already been refined."

"Alas, this spiritual body does indeed have difficulty unleashing all my strength. When did refining a tier 6 medicinal pill require so much time in the past? Now, not only does the process take a long time, but it is also

extremely exhausting on my energy.” Yao Lao shook his head and sighed.

“Teacher, you can rest assured. Once I obtain the ‘Fallen Heart Flame’, I will begin to try and refine a body that can accommodate your spirit. At that time, you can once again be revived should I succeed in my refinement.” Xiao Yan comforted with a smile.

“I am not really anxious about the matter of my revival, having already waited for so many years.” Yao Lao smiled. However, one could see the smile on his face when he spoke these words. It revealed he still felt a little pleased from the words Xiao Yan spoke.

Xiao Yan laughed. He extended his hand and grabbed toward the medicinal pill that was suspended above Yao Lao’s palm. His hand had just grabbed it when that ‘Ground Spirit Pill’ transformed into a blue glow and shot away. Finally, it lingered beside Yao Lao, appearing to have a spirit of its own.

Xiao Yan was startled as he eyed the ‘Ground Spirit Pill’ that actually dodged his palm. He said in a stunned voice, “Don’t tell me that all tier 6 medicinal pills possess some level of intelligence? It actually even knows how to dodge?”

“Not all of them. A medicinal pill of this tier does indeed possess some intelligence. However, it is merely the kind that gives it an extremely vague sense. An ordinary tier 6 medicinal pill would usually not possess such intelligence. However, this ‘Ground Spirit Pill’ could be considered among the top within the tier 6 medicinal pills. This is especially after being catalyzed with my ‘Bone Chilling Flame’. It naturally has a richer intelligence when compared to the other medicinal pills of the same tier.” Yao Lao smiled and explained. He immediately waved his hand and the ‘Ground Spirit Pill’ that was suspended by his side automatically flew into his hand. He took out a jade bottle and stuffed it in before tossing it to Xiao Yan.

Xiao Yan carefully received the jade bottle. He eyed the ‘Ground Spirit Pill’ that was suspended within the jade bottle and smacked his mouth in surprise. He said, “A tier 6 medicinal pill already has such intelligence.

Won't even higher tier medicinal pills be able to speak a human language?" A few drops of perspiration involuntarily flowed down from Xiao Yan's forehead when he thought of a medicinal pill being able to chat with a person.

"Ke ke, a tier 7 medicinal pill does indeed have greater intelligence. Some of the medicinal pills might even automatically fly away after coming out of the cauldron if one is not careful, causing an alchemist exhausted from refining it to be stunned. A tier 8 medicinal pill can even fight with a human, do you think that is mysterious?" Yao Lao laughed out loud.

Xiao Yan was speechless. A medicinal pill that can fight with a person? This... tier eight medicinal pills were actually this overwhelmingly strong?

"A tier 8 medicinal pill is already this strong. What about tier 9 and tier 10? Won't they oppose the heavens?" Xiao Yan laughed bitterly.

"It is rumored that there are some tier nine medicinal pills can even take a human form." Yao Lao's first sentence caused Xiao Yan's head to spin around. It was becoming more and more ridiculous. A medicinal pill that can even turn into a human?

"Jiu jiu is the most honored. Above it is not called tier 10. Instead, it is the completely unique 'God Tier'. A medicinal pill of this tier has never appeared ever since the ancient times. I have once read some ancient books. The meaning of the vague description on it seems to imply that this 'God Tier' medicinal pill faintly had some relationship with the rank of Dou Di, the level that merely exists in legend." Yao Lao laughed. His final sentence was suppressed until it was very soft, seemingly afraid that someone else would hear it.

TL: jiu jiu – 'nine nine' – alternatively, it can sound like 'long long' meaning forever, which is a number held in high regard

TL: God tier (Di tier) – the Di comes from the rank Dou Di (strongest rank). which means god. It should be noted that the rank Di is usually the ultimate level in BTTH

Xiao Yan wiped his cold sweat. This 'God Tier' is actually so frightening? Don't tell me that one requires this kind of 'God Tier' medicinal pill to

breakthrough to a Dou Di?

“No one has been able to refine a ‘God Tier’ medicinal pill in a thousand years. The first reason is that there is a lack of a medicinal formula. A medicinal formula of this tier basically has an innate difference compared to the medicinal formula that we use. We are refining an elixir between the heaven and the earth. The ‘God Tier’ medicinal pill refines the heavens and earth, the mountains and the sea.” Yao Lao’s faint voice gave Xiao Yan a great shock. Refining the heavens and earth into pills? Was this not a little too frightening?

“The second reason is that no one possesses that kind of strength.” Yao Lao smiled before adding, “Even if I were to recover to my peak, I am also unable to reach that extent.”

Xiao Yan nodded quietly as he inhaled a deep breath of air. He did not expect that the journey of refining pills actually still possessed such a tactic that went against the heavens. This really caused him to be extremely shocked.

“Alright, there is not much use for you to know about these now. You will naturally know all that you should need to know when you reach that level in the future.” Yao Lao waved his hand and stored the ‘Black Demon’ medicinal cauldron on the ground into the dark-black ring. After which, the ring shook and was placed on Xiao Yan’s finger with extremely great accuracy.

Xiao Yan nodded slightly and smiled as he said, “Since the ‘Ground Spirit Pill’ has been successfully refined, shall we first return to the Inner Academy?”

Yao Lao randomly nodded. His body was just about to enter the dark-black ring when his expression changed slightly. He suddenly turned his head around and eyed somewhere far away within the mountain range.

“Teacher, what is it?” Yao Lao’s action also caused Xiao Yan to become slightly anxious as he hurriedly asked.

“You should hide first. Someone is coming. Moreover, the strength of the person who is coming is very strong! I think that he must have been

attracted by the activity when the 'Ground Spirit Pill' was formed earlier." Yao Lao said in a slightly deep voice. He pondered a little before his figure turned into a light barrier that covered Xiao Yan's body. A soft voice sounded beside Xiao Yan's ears, "Go and hide quickly. With your strength you will definitely be unable to escape his search. Therefore, I can only use Spiritual Strength to wrap around you. Hurry!"

Xiao Yan was also able to sense the great strength of the person who was rushing over upon hearing the anxiety in Yao Lao's voice. He flapped his Purple Cloud Wings and searched quickly around him. Immediately, his body charged into a large mountain peak. Finally, his body completely disappeared within the lush greenery.

Xiao Yan's body entered the lush green forest and hid in a covert area. His gaze passed through the gaps between the tree branches and eyed the distant sky.

Not long after Xiao Yan completely hid his body, a slight rushing wind sound suddenly appeared. A blurry, black shadow suddenly appeared in the distant sky. The instant his body paused, Xiao Yan could vaguely sense an extremely large invisible ripple spread over. Finally, it wrapped around all the nearby mountain peaks.

This invisible ripple was just like a radar. It repeatedly scanned the place up and down. However, it was fortunate that Xiao Yan was wrapped by Yao Lao's Spiritual Strength. Therefore, he was not discovered.

The scanning came to a stop after it continued for a while on the ground. The black figure paused. When it next appeared, it appeared on the small mountain peak that Yao Lao had refined the medicinal pill on.

"What frightening speed." Xiao Yan's heart felt shocked at the speed that the black shadow displayed. His gaze was extremely obscured as it passed through the tree branches and quietly swept over the latter. However, he was only able to identify that the other party was an old man who had white-colored hair.

"This person should be someone from the Inner Academy. However, his strength is much stronger than that of those Elders. If my thinking is

correct, this should be the First Elder with the greatest prestige within the Inner Academy.” Xiao Yan quietly guessed and muttered in his heart.

“May I know which friend is refining medicinal pills in my Inner Academy and where you come from? If it is possible, can you come out to meet me?” The gaze of the black-robed old man looked all around him as his body landed on the top of a mountain. Looking at his calm turbid eyes, one could faintly see a flicker that was just like lightning.

A sound that was doped with powerful Dou Qi repeatedly reverberated in this area. It was mighty and did not rest even after a long while.

Xiao Yan would naturally not do as he asked and appear. His body was like a corpse as he lay within the thicket without making the slightest movement. His heartbeat was also suppressed to its lowest point. Adding the cover of Yao Lao’s spirit, he believed that no matter how strong the black-robed old man was, he should not be able to sense Xiao Yan’s position.

The mighty sound reverberated through the air. A long time later, it completely disappeared. However, the surroundings were still as quiet as they were before. This caused the black-robed old man to involuntarily frown.

“Don’t tell me that he has already left?” The black-robed old man sighed gently. He could only once again leap his body and leave. After a couple of flashes, he quietly disappeared into the horizon.

Xiao Yan only let out a gentle relieved sigh when he saw the black-robed old man quietly disappearing. His body had just moved when Yao Lao’s deep voice sounded beside his ear, “Don’t move!”

Xiao Yan’s body, which had just twisted a little, once again stilled. He pulled at the corner of his mouth and could only maintain this posture. This continued for nearly half an hour. Just when he was about to reach the limit of his endurance, his eyes that were looking toward a mountain peak in the distance suddenly shrunk.

He could see a slight breeze suddenly blow past the mountain peak, which was originally devoid of anyone. A black-robed human figure slowly

appeared within Xiao Yan's sight just like a ghost.

Xiao Yan eyed the human figure who had clearly gone far away, but had once again strangely appeared. Cold sweat instantly covered his forehead. This old fellow... was really cunning. If he did not have Yao Lao's reminder earlier, it was likely that he would be caught red-handed the moment he appeared. This did not appear to be the first time he had met something like this.

The black-robed old man who had once again appeared looked all around him. At this moment, he was finally certain that the person who had refined medicinal pill here had already gone far away. He let out a sigh. With a shake of his figure, he once again disappeared from the original spot.

This time around, Xiao Yan finally completely relaxed his tense mind following the disappearance of the black-robed human figure. His body weakly lay on the tree branch, appearing to have lost all his strength as he allowed the cold sweat to drench his clothes.



# Chapter 542: The Talent to Hunt Treasures

Xiao Yan once again stayed for half a day within the deep mountains after avoiding the search of the black-robed old man. Only then did he display his Purple Cloud Wings and return to the Inner Academy with a relaxed heart.

With the help of the dim sky, Xiao Yan once again successfully shook off those nosy people who wanted to challenge him. He entered 'Pan's Gate' and swaggered back to the pavilion home. However, when he pushed open the door and entered, a white figure suddenly flashed in front of him, causing him to hurriedly take a cautious step back. He focused his eyes and took a look, and was involuntarily a little stunned. This white figure in front of him was actually that so-called first rank on the 'Strong Ranking', the avatar of a Magical Beast, Zi Yan.

At this moment, the white-clothed little girl was eyeing Xiao Yan at the entrance with an anticipation-filled gaze. Her dark-black eyes were filled with desire.

"Cough, Zi Yan, why have you come?" Xiao Yan relaxed his tensed heart. He let out a dry cough before rubbing Zi Yan's little head. After which, he moved sideways and entered the room. Upon entering the room, he discovered that Xun Er, Hu Jia, and Wu Hao were present. At this moment, the three of them were using a strange gaze to look at him.

"I have eaten all of those Danwan that you have helped me refine." Zi Yan was just like a follower at this moment, closely following behind Xiao Yan's body. Her small face was slightly red as she spoke in an embarrassed manner.

TL: Danwan/Yaowan – pills that has no really medicinal effect to a human and can potentially be harmful if consumed

Xiao Yan could not help but wipe off some cold sweat when he heard this. This little fellow was indeed worthy of having the constitution of a

Magical Beast. She was actually able to consume all of the Yaowan that contained such a wild and violent medicinal effect within a couple of days. Based on Xiao Yan's knowledge of her, it was likely that the latter had eaten those Yaowan as though they were sweets.

Xiao Yan swiftly walked into the hall and heard Hu Jia quietly muttering, "Just who is this little girl? She had suddenly came and found our 'Pan's Gate' this morning and told us that she wanted to find you. When she heard that you are not around, she simply sat down and did not leave. Her small face was so icy-cold that it was frightening. The other party is a little girl, so it is not nice for us to use force."

Xiao Yan nodded slightly. With a bitter smile, he said, "Fortunately, all of you did not use force. Otherwise, this entire pavilion would be torn down."

"Huh?" Upon hearing these words, Wu Hao and Hu Jia by the side were somewhat stunned as they eyed the little girl whose ice-cold face had defrosted ever since Xiao Yan appeared. Such a cute little girl actually possessed this kind of violent strength?

"Although this little girl may be very young, her body appears to contain an extremely great strength. If she were to really fight, there is really hardly anyone here who can handle her." Xun Er by the side was not too surprised. By hearing these words of hers, it appeared that she had faintly sensed Zi Yan's strength.

Xiao Yan was somewhat surprised as he eyed Xun Er. This sensitivity of hers did not appear to be something that a Da Dou Shi could possess. However, it was not the first time that Xiao Yan had experienced Xun Er's mysteriousness. Therefore, the surprise merely lasted for an instant before it swiftly disappeared.

Hu Jia and Wu Hao exchanged looks with one another. They involuntarily muttered, "It's not possible, right? She is only this young..."

"You cannot just look on the surface of everything." Xiao Yan smiled. He had also felt shocked when he learned Zi Yan possessed such a powerful strength at such a young age before he had ascertained her identity. Therefore, he understood the emotions of Hu Jia and Wu Hao at this

moment.

Xiao Yan sat on the chair. He suddenly could not help but feel a fatigue. His eyes narrowed as he rubbed his forehead with his fingers. Observing Yao Lao refining the 'Ground Spirit Pill' these past few days had also exhausted quite a lot of his energy.

"Snap, snap..."

A wave of crashing noises suddenly sounded just as Xiao Yan had managed to sit down. He opened his eyes uncertainly, only to see that the table was piled high with medicinal ingredients. Zi Yan beside the table was wearing a ring on her little finger.

"This is what that old man who guards the medicinal warehouse asked me to deliver. He said that these medicinal ingredients were prepared by some Elder Liu." This matter was clearly not Zi Yan's main aim. Therefore, after she threw all these things out, she immediately took out a pink-colored lumpy medicinal ingredient that looked like the root of a plant. Her dark-black eyes looked at Xiao Yan with great anticipation. She used a tender voice and said, "Additionally, you have said that I can come and look for you when I finished consuming all the Yaowan."

Xiao Yan glanced at the medicinal ingredients on the table and randomly looked over them. He nodded slightly. That Elder Liu was not overly stingy with regards to this. There should be three sets of ingredients among the medicinal ingredients here. Clearly, he was also worried that Xiao Yan's failure rate would be too high. Therefore, he had clenched his teeth and taken out a little more. All he hoped was that Xiao Yan would be able to successfully refine one 'Dragon Strength Pill' among these three sets of medicinal pill ingredients.

Xiao Yan only received that root like medicinal ingredient from Zi Yan's hand after looking through the other medicinal ingredients. He flipped it around and took a look and could not help but sigh. He recognized this thing. This was a kind of rare medicinal ingredient called 'Fire Spirit Root'. It contained a rich fire affinity energy within it. Even he himself was involuntarily attracted to it.

“This fellow is really a baffoon who ruins medicinal ingredients.” Xiao Yan shook his head and laughed bitterly, “Elder Hao will definitely be angered to death by you.”

“Nonsense. This medicinal ingredient is something that I have found by myself in the deep mountains. From the very beginning, I possess a kind of special sense for these natural spiritual items. I did not steal them from that old fellow.” Zi Yan’s large dark-black eyes narrowed as she angrily responded upon hearing Xiao Yan’s words.

“Special sense?” Xiao Yan’s heart involuntarily moved slightly when he heard this phrase. This Zi Yan was originally a unique beast from ancient times. Did she possess a natural born treasure hunting like talent?

Xiao Yan’s eyes quietly became a little brighter. If this was the case, was this little fellow’s existence not just like a bowl that gathered treasure? With this mysterious sense of hers, it would undoubtedly save a lot of trouble if one wanted to search for a natural spiritual object within the deep mountains.

“You are able to sense those medicinal ingredients that are buried deep in the ground?” Xun Er by the side was also somewhat surprised as she asked.

Zi Yan glanced at Xun Er. For some unknown reason, she felt a faint fear for this beautiful elder sister. Therefore, her words did not appear cold, “Hmph, I naturally know where the deep mountains of the Inner Academy hide medicine. However, most of the medicine is protected by powerful Magical Beast. For example, a ‘Snow Demon Sky Ape’ in that deep mountain is definitely guarding something good. However, I have been beaten by him and forced back during the few times I went there. Later on, I met a lady in the Inner Academy who has silver-colored hair. She appears pleasing to the eye so I told her about the thing that the ‘Snow Demon Sky Ape’ is protecting. I wonder if she succeeded. She said that she would even give me a share if she did.”

The expression of the few people within the hall had varying kinds of changes when these words were emitted from Zi Yan’s mouth.

Hu Jia and Wu Hao had eyes that were filled with shock as they watched Zi Yan. They had naturally heard of the name 'Snow Demon Sky Ape'. It was really unexpected that this little girl actually dared to exchange blows with such a ferocious beast? One could likely find hardly anyone with such strength even within the entire Inner Academy.

"It is really unexpected that the reason for Han Yue knowing that the 'Core Quenching Body Milk' was hiding in the mountain valley was actually because Zi Yan had told her about it... this matter was really interesting." Xiao Yan clicked his tongue and shook his head. A lady who has silver-colored hair. It seemed that there was only Han Yue within this Inner Academy, right?

"Hee hee, Zi Yan, why don't we make a deal?" Xiao Yan's eyes rolled. A smile suddenly gathered on his face as he asked Zi Yan a question.

"What are you planning to do?" Zi Yan immediately took a step back and cautiously asked when she saw Xiao Yan's smile.

"I can put aside everything and help you refine some more once you have consumed all your Danwans in the future." Xiao Yan smiled and said. "However, I have an exchange condition. You must follow me when I need to enter the deep mountains to search for medicinal ingredients." As an alchemist, his requirement of valuable medicinal ingredients was a desire greater than anything else. Moreover, Zi Yan's treasure seeking talent undoubtedly possessed an enormous attraction toward him.

"You want me to help you search for medicinal ingredients?" Although Zi Yan was young, she was not stupid. Hence, she immediately understood Xiao Yan's intention.

"Helping you refine medicinal ingredients also consumes a lot of strength. You cannot let me do it for free right?" Xiao Yan spread his hands and said.

Zi Yan frowned. She considered this for quite a while before nodding her head unwillingly. She muttered, "It's up to you. In any case, I will only bring you to search for medicinal ingredients. You will have to handle yourself if you met a Magical Beast guarding the medicinal ingredient. Of

course, it is also possible if you really want me to act. However, you will need to give me a reward.”

Xiao Yan nodded. He placed the large pile of medicinal ingredients into his storage ring. After which, he waved the ‘Fire Spirit Root’ in his hand toward Zi Yan and said, “I will help you refine this thing tonight. You can come and take it tomorrow.”

“No, I will wait for you here.” Zi Yan hurriedly shook her head and said when she heard this.

“Up to you. Xun Er, arrange a place for her. I am really too tired after these past few days and need to rest a little first.” Xiao Yan nodded indifferently before instructing Xun Er.

Xun Er smiled and nodded. She eyed Xiao Yan who had turned around and went to the next floor. Her mouth moved slightly. That manner of hers where she wanted to speak only to stop herself seemed to imply that she had something she wanted to tell Xiao Yan. A moment later, however, it turned into a soft sigh. She lowered her head and smiled to Zi Yan by the side. After which, she bid Hu Jia and Wu Hao goodbye and led Zi Yan to a room.

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Night covered the entire Inner Academy. The occasional flicker of some light expelled a little of the darkness.

Xun Er was standing in a slender and elegant manner by the window in a room within the pavilion home. The weak moonlight shot through the window and wrapped around her delicate, slim, lovely body. Her black hair blew with the wind, giving her an animated demeanor.

A dark shadow suddenly wiggled at a dark spot within the quiet room. Finally, it agglomerated into an old human figure.

“Xiao-jie.” The human figure appeared and respectfully bowed to Xun Er. From his appearance, this person was Ling Ying.

TL: xiao-jie – young miss/lady from a well off or powerful family

“Old Ling, just tell me if there is something you want to say.” Xun Er turned around. A faint smile appeared on her exquisite and flawless face as she softly spoke.

Ling Ying hesitated a little when he heard this. His gaze stared at Xun Er’s face. A moment later, he finally said softly. “Little miss, the clan head has transmitted an order over...”

Xun Er’s straight lovely body under the moonlight, trembled gently in an unnoticeable manner the moment Ling Ying’s voice sounded.

“Speak.”

The young lady’s voice appeared a little cold under the cover of the moonlight.

# Chapter 543: Urgent Matter?

“The matter of the clan head of the Xiao clan being missing has been spread to the clan.” Ling Ying eyed Xun Er as he said with a bitter smile, “Currently, the clan is a little chaotic. Xiao Zhan’s disappearance may also mean that the portion of the ‘key’ belonging to the Xiao clan has also disappeared with him. Xiao-jie also knows just how seriously the clan views that thing.”

TL: xiao-jie – young miss/lady from a well off or powerful family

“Did the clan send someone to investigate the whereabouts of uncle Xiao Zhan?” Xun Er knit her eyebrows slightly before suddenly asking a moment later.

“They have begun to investigate. However, they don’t have any news for the time being. The only ones who know about the details of Xiao Zhan’s disappearance is perhaps the First Elder of the Misty Cloud Sect who had given chase back then. Unfortunately, Xiao Yan has already killed him in his anger.” Ling Ying shook his head and said.

“Xiao Yan ge-ge values uncle Xiao Zhan greatly. Xiao Zhan was chased by the Misty Cloud Sect until he ended up disappearing. Xiao Yan was naturally furious to the point that he lost a little of his reasoning.” Xun Er sighed. Immediately, she changed the topic and said, “Tell me about Father’s order first.”

“The clan head has said that if xiao-jie (young miss) continues to be unable to find that portion of the key, you will have to immediately return to the clan. Since, the key has already gone missing following Xiao Zhan’s disappearance, there is no need to waste your time on young master Xiao Yan.” Ling Ying said softly, “Xiao-jie (young miss), with your repeated refusal to return and your staying with young master Xiao Yan, the clan head might have vaguely guessed something. He appears to be extremely dissatisfied with this. There are some Elders in the clan who also think this way. They think that young master Xiao Yan is not worthy of you.”

Xun Er’s face was calm. Hre face did not even move a little because of



this. A long while later, she finally said indifferently, "They will naturally know whether he is worthy of me in the future."

"However, you cannot wait until the future. Xiao-jie should have already returned to the clan when young master Xiao Yan left Wu Tang City back then. You have already dragged this matter along for three years. There is an increasing amount of dissatisfaction within the clan. After all, your importance to the clan is not something the other offshoot young miss and young master can compare with." Ling Ying said softly, "Therefore, this time around, the clan head has issued a strict order. If you do not return within one month's time, there might be people from the clan who will personally come over. Xiao-jie likely doesn't wish to allow the current young master Xiao Yan to come into contact with the clan, right? You should clearly know that young master Xiao Yan's current strength does not give him the slightest qualification to be viewed seriously by the clan."

The back of Xun Er's teeth bit her lower red lip. She clenched her delicate hand. A moment later, she nodded slightly. "Ah, I know."

Although she already knew where the so called portion of the 'key' belonging to the Xiao clan was, she did not reveal it. This was because she clearly understood that Xiao Yan would definitely disappear should this news be spread into the clan.

Ling Ying helplessly sighed as he eyed Xun Er's beautiful face that was as calm as water. He twisted his body and turned into a blurry black shadow before rushing into the darkness. Finally, he wiggled slightly and disappeared.

It was a long while after Ling Ying disappeared before Xun Er slowly moved her footsteps and came before the window. She eyed the vast night sky, and a faint bitterness involuntarily surfaced on her face. She had never had the slightest doubt about Xiao Yan's potential. Even during the time that he had fallen into being a cripple from a genius back then, she had also believed that he would sooner or later once again stand at the peak where others looked up to. However, a genius was still just a grain in a vast sea in front of that faction that was so enormous that it caused people to be shocked. He could not cause them to pay much attention to

him. The countless number of years of heritage had caused that ancient faction to witness the sudden rise and fall of geniuses, one after another. Therefore, the term genius would not cause them to be even the least bit attentive. What they cared about was only what kinds of achievement one currently had accomplished!

Currently, Xiao Yan was merely a Dou Ling. Although he was not even twenty years old, this did not mean much. After all, the journey of one's cultivation was incomparably dangerous. No one dared to be certain or believe that Xiao Yan would be truly able to walk all the way to the peak of this cultivation journey and look down on everyone. That ancient faction was far too big. Therefore, unless one reached that pinnacle level, one would ultimately appear to be just like the difference between fifty and a hundred steps. There was basically not much fundamental difference between them.

"They do not believe..." A faint ridicule was lifted on the corner of her mouth as Xun Er softly muttered, "It is fine with just me believing..."

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After one night of rest, Xiao Yan's energy was once again lively the next day. The moment he got out of bed, he spent half an hour completing the refinement of Zi Yan's 'Fire Spirit Root'. Since Elder Liu did not state a time where he needed that 'Dragon Strength Pill', Xiao Yan was not in a hurry to refine it.

Xiao Yan walked out of the room. He had just walked down the stairs when Zi Yan's figure flashed and appeared like a ghost. Her dark-black eyes blinked as they stared at Xiao Yan.

Xiao Yan was neither able to laugh nor cry when he saw this manner of hers. He threw the jade bottle into her hand and could not help but quietly laugh in a bitter manner when he saw that joyous expression. This little girl may be very strong, but her mentality was not much different from someone of her age.

Zi Yan finally ceased pestering Xiao Yan after obtaining some delicious Danwan that was filled with energy. However, she felt a little embarrassed

at immediately wanting to leave after just obtaining the thing. Hence, she obediently sat in one corner. That tender and cute manner of hers caused Hu Jia by the side to have a desire to charge forward and viciously pinch her.

At this moment, Xun Er, Hu Jia, and Wu Hao were all present within the hall. Today, Wu Hao did not hurry over to the Fighting Arena. Even Xiao Yan and the others felt a little speechless at the fanaticism that this fellow had toward fighting.

Xiao Yan inquired about the recent matters occurring for 'Pan's Gate' from Xun Er and the rest during the time that he ate breakfast. He only sighed in relief after ensuring that everything was fine. No matter how one put it, he was ultimately the leader of 'Pan's Gate'. Although he was not very responsible as its leader, he had never denied his status.

Xiao Yan was just about to get up after eating his breakfast when the tightly shut door to the room was pushed open. Immediately, that loud voice of Lin Yan howled loudly within the hall.

"Xiao Yan, I heard that you have returned? Ha ha. Do you have time to spar today? These few days, I have not had any fun while fighting a couple of matches in the Fighting Arena. Those bastards simply run after seeing me." Lin Yan, who appeared looking careless, swaggered into the room. He ignored the helpless expressions of Xiao Yan and the others and directly came to the side of the table. He randomly grabbed a bun on the table and viciously took a bite while speaking in a vague manner.

"Huh, who is this little girl... grug..." While the bun was being chewed in his mouth, Lin Yan ignored Xiao Yan and the others and suddenly turned his gaze toward Zi Yan who was seated by the side. He had just smiled and inquired when his face swiftly stiffened under Xun Er's, Xiao Yan's, and Wu Hao's stunned gazes. The bun which was chewed to pieces in his mouth was being violently spit out along with his saliva. A moment later, his entire face was filled with shock as he hurriedly withdrew as though he had been electrocuted.

"You... why are you here?" An extremely shocked and sharp voice was

emitted from Lin Yan's mouth as he stepped back.

Xun Er, Hu Jia, and Wu Hao were at a loss when they saw this sudden change of Lin Yan. Only Xiao Yan understood that it was likely that this fellow had recognized Zi Yan.

"Why are you shouting so loudly?" Zi Yan covered her ears and said with extreme dissatisfaction to the shocked Lin Yan.

Lin Yan swallowed a mouthful of saliva. He only quietly relaxed a little when he saw that Zi Yan had no other special action. He made a detour around the large table in the hall and carefully went behind Xiao Yan and the others. He said softly, "Dammit, why is this fellow here? Are all of you alright?"

"We are very well." Xiao Yan spread his hands and smiled as he replied.

Lin Yan involuntarily widened his eyes when he saw Xiao Yan's calm attitude. "Do you know her identity?"

"Yes." Xiao Yan smiled. He walked to Zi Yan's side and rubbed her head as he smiled and said, "A very cute little girl."

"Cute..." The corner of Lin Yan's mouth twitched as he spoke in his heart. If you are able to see the frightening scene of how this fellow kicked all the competitors down from the arena during the last 'Strong Ranking' Grand Competition, you might no longer think so.

"I have already finished eating. Hmph, I'm leaving." Zi Yan stuffed the breakfast into her mouth. She swung her head and shook Xiao Yan's hand off. With a snort to Lin Yan, she began leaping up and down as she walked out. She even turned to face Xiao Yan to speak just when she was about to exit through the door, "Remember our agreement. Additionally, I feel that you are pleasant to look at. You can come and find me if there is anyone who dares to bully you. I will give a punch to every single one of those fellows just like that one beside you."

The little girl proudly waved her little fist after saying this. After which, she swung her purple ponytail before leaping and disappeared from the sight of Xiao Yan and the others.

“Dammit. Xiao Yan, when did you actually get to know the Brute Force Queen?” Lin Yan only recovered his normal state following the disappearance of Zi Yan. His fist was smashed on Xiao Yan’s shoulders as he spoke with surprise.

“It is really unexpected that the person ranked first on the ‘Strong Ranking’ that you said you are extremely afraid of is actually such a little girl.” Xiao Yan shook his head and teased.

Lin Yan’s face turned somewhat flushed when he was mocked by Xiao Yan. He snorted and said, “With this monster protecting you, do you still need to be afraid of Liu Qing. That fellow can only take another path when he sees her.”

“I am hoping for a little girl to back me up?” Xiao Yan smiled and shook his head. As an alpha male, he really did not wish to rely on a little girl’s name to swagger around triumphantly.

Xiao Yan smiled and patted Lin Yan’s shoulders. He was just about to say something when a hurried knocking sound was suddenly emitted from the door. Immediately, a human figure hurriedly charged inside after Xun Er responded in a soft voice.

“Atai? What is it?” Xiao Yan was involuntarily spoke in a stunned manner when he eyed the panting man who had rushed in.

“Hee hee, chief, there are some matters that involves you.” Atai rubbed his head and said, “Yesterday, I had taken leave to return to the Outer Academy, only to hear that someone is looking for you urgently.”

“Oh? Who?” Xiao Yan was slightly startled as he inquired with a frown.

“It seems that she is called Xiao Yu. She even said that she is your older sister.” Atai said, “From her expression, she appears to have some urgent matters to inform you of. The Inner Academy doesn’t allow the students from the Outer Academy to enter. Therefore, she asked me to inform you to go to take a trip to the Outer Academy no matter what.”

Xiao Yan’s expression changed slightly. He understood Xiao Yu very well. She would not be so anxious unless something big that had

happened. However, what could have happened while in the Outer Academy?

Xiao Yan took two steps back and forth. He finally could not endure it any longer as he turned around and walked out of the door. He said in a deep voice, "Let's go!"

# Chapter 544: Return to the Outer Academy

A few human figures flashed out from the illusory exit of the Inner Academy. From the looks of their appearances they were actually Xiao Yan, Xun Er and the rest. Behind them was Lin Yan who had followed out of curiosity.

The moment when Xiao Yan and the others had rushed out from the forest, a faint old voice sounded above the heads of everyone, "You must obtain a letter from an elder if you want to leave the Inner Academy. What does the large group of you plan to do by leaving?"

Xiao Yan and the others hurriedly raised their heads when they heard this voice, only to see an old man standing on the top of a tree branch. Looking carefully, he was that Elder Su whom they had seen when they had first entered the Inner Academy.

"Elder Su, I am Xiao Yan and I have an urgent matter that requires me to make a trip to the Outer Academy. Please accomodate me!" Xiao Yan took a step forward, suppressing the anxiety in his heart. He respectfully spoke to the Elder on the tree branch.

"Oh? Xiao Yan?" Elder Su was startled when he heard this. His gaze was hurriedly thrown to Xiao Yan's body. When he saw that somewhat familiar face, there was immediately an additional smile on his originally indifferent face. "Ke ke, it is actually student Xiao Yan. Why? Have you become bored after staying in the Inner Academy and want to take a walk outside?"

"Where would I have such leisure? It is just that there is an urgent matter that requires me to go and take a look." Xiao Yan laughed bitterly. He cupped his hands toward Elder Su and said, "Elder, please."

Elder Su paused for a second since according to the Inner Academy rules, without a letter, they couldn't randomly let people leave. However, Xiao Yan was different. He was someone that the First Elder personally

said to give extra attention. In addition, although he had been stationed here, he had also heard about Xiao Yan being able to refine a tier five pill. Thus, he was quite happy to help Xiao Yan.

“According to the rules, I cannot let you pass since you have no letter in your hands. However, on the account of student Xiao Yan, I will bend the rules once today.” Elder Su mused for a moment before finally waving his hand and speaking with a smile.

“Thank you very much, Elder!” Xiao Yan immediately rejoiced when he saw Elder Su nodding his head.

“Hei, your face is quite big. I have come to find this Elder a couple of times and he always showed me the face of a dead person. If you do not hand over a letter, you are not allowed to pass. It is really unexpected that he would be lenient to you.” Behind Xiao Yan, Lin Yan was a little surprised as he spoke.

Xiao Yan smiled. He was also clearly aware that the reason for these Elders being so courteous was most likely because he could refine a tier 5 medicinal pill. After all, as an alchemist, he clearly understood just what kind of an attraction a tier 5 alchemist had toward these Elders whose strength were at the Dou Wang class.

“Xiao Yan ge-ge, you need not be too worried. There should not be any overly big matters that would occur within the Jia Nan Academy.” Xun Er, who had been paying attention to Xiao Yan suddenly spoke softly. Although the former hid it well, she was still able to discover a faint anxiety between Xiao Yan’s brows.

Xiao Yan nodded slightly as he spoke with a soft voice, “However, you should also know Xiao Yu well. She has a haughty character. Unless there is really a big matter, she would definitely not come find me. No matter how one put it, we are also of the same clan. Moreover, the Xiao clan had been reduced to this state because of me. I also feel a little sorry for them.”

Xun Er smiled. Her delicate hand gently held Xiao Yan’s palm, indicating that he need not be overly worried.

As the two conversed softly, the space of the open area in front of them



suddenly fluctuated intensely. Immediately, the space appeared to be forcefully torn open by an invisible hand. A silver-colored dazzling door appeared within their sights.

“I have already sent a signal out. Therefore, there will be some Griffins waiting for you. The deep mountains of the Inner Academy are filled with many Magical Beasts. If there was no Griffin to ride, you would likely need to waste a week’s time in order to reach the Outer Academy.” Elder Su gently landed on the ground from the tree branch and smiled as he spoke to Xiao Yan’s group.

“Elder Su, thank you very much. I will definitely return the favor that was made today.” Xiao Yan cupped his hands to Elder Su with gratitude. He did not stay for long as he took the lead to swiftly walk toward the silver-colored door. After which, his figure disappeared with a flickering glow.

Xun Er and the rest followed closely after Xiao Yan. With the flicker of some silver glow, the forest had once again become empty.

“Seeing that anxious manner of Xiao Yan, it appears that he does indeed have an urgent matter. I’m afraid that I will need to report to the First Elder about this.” Elder Su mused for a moment after the final person disappeared behind the silver-colored doorway. He turned around and leaped into the sky. A pair of Dou Qi wings appeared as he rushed toward the Inner Academy.

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The moment they exited the silver-colored door, a boundless mountain range appeared in Xiao Yan’s sight. There was a deep bottomless gorge that extended out and finally disappeared into the edge of their sight not far in front of them.

At this moment, there was an enormous Griffin which was flapping its wings beside the gorge. There were even two people driving the Griffin.

“Ke ke, the few of you are heading for the Outer Academy right? Come aboard.” A person who was driving stood up and smiled. He spoke to Xiao Yan and the rest upon seeing their appearance.

“Thank you very much.” Xiao Yan did not say any unnecessary words. He waved his hand and took the lead to leap onto the Griffin before his body stood straight without moving on the back of the Griffin, which was quite slippery. Xun Er and the others followed closely behind him. All of them were people with extraordinary strength. Therefore, they would naturally not show the embarrassing matter that some new students displayed back when they first entered the Inner Academy.

Seeing these steady movements, the two drivers of the Griffin also let out quiet praise. Those students were indeed worthy of being students of the Inner Academy. This kind of agility was something that was far from what the Outer Academy students could compare with.

“Sit tight!” A cry was let out. The Griffin suddenly flapped its wings and set off in a wild gust of wind. An enormous body lifted into the sky before finally swiftly flying toward the mountain range of the Outer Academy.

In the Griffin anchorage open ground of the Outer Academy.

Due to the Griffins being extremely eye-catching, there were quite a number of Outer Academy students who had gathered around the open ground. These students were immediately startled when they saw a group of people filing down from a Griffin that had just landed. Xiao Yan, Xun Er, Hu Jia, and Wu Hao were basically stars that everyone in the Outer Academy knew before the four of them entered the Inner Academy. Even though over half a year had passed since then, there were still quite a number of students who remembered them. Therefore, waves of private conversations sounded when the four people showed themselves. Their eyes were filled with a fiery heat.

Xiao Yan, who was in a hurry, naturally did not bother about these gazes. He led the group out of the open ground and relied on his memory to walk to Instructor Ruo Ling’s residence.

“Hei, that green-clothed girl is really beautiful. Why have I not seen her before? It is really unfortunate. If I had met her before, I might even have been able to get close and possess such a beauty.” Some of the voices involuntarily became much louder as they eyed the group of people who

had disappeared from the edge of their sight. There was another batch of new students who had entered the Outer Academy during this half a year. Therefore, they had never seen Xun Er and the rest before. However, looking at the imposing manner of the group, these new students who had just arrived did not dare to be overly loud. Their voices naturally appeared now that the group had left.

“Chi, brat, your skin is really itchy. That is Senior Xiao Yan’s woman. You actually want to get close to her with just your strength?” A student who appeared to be older glanced at a new student who had appeared beside him and said with a cold laughter.

“Who is Xiao Yan? I have only heard of the new student king chief Yan Cheng and don’t know any Xiao Yan.” That new student was also like a thorn. Immediately, he retorted with anger.

“New student king Yan Cheng? Hee hee, that is just some stuff that a group of new students who don’t know the immensity of the Heavens and Earth created, yet you dare compare with him? Back when Senior Xiao Yan entered the Inter Academy, he was already a six star Da Dou Shi. Now that he has undergone tough training within the Inner Academy for half a year, his strength will definitely have advanced a lot. He might well have reached the peak of the Da Dou Shi class. What is the rank of that Yan Cheng? With just one slap down, he would not even recognize his old mother.” An older student ridiculed. That so-called new student king was merely something that this batch of new students had chosen in their gathering. The strength of that Yan Cheng was the most outstanding one. Therefore, he was supported by a group of new students to become whatever new student king. Although the strength of the new students was not considered strong, they won in having large numbers. Therefore, it was also quite a strong faction in the Outer Academy.

The expression of that new student also changed a little when he heard of that so-called peak Da Dou Shi strength. He was also clear about the enormous gap between the two and immediately no longer dared to say any frivolous words. He only tucked his tail and fled in a crestfallen manner.

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Xiao Yan's group naturally did not know of the changes that had occurred in the Outer Academy during this half a year. Moreover, they would not pay attention to it even if they knew. With the strength of the current 'Pan's Gate', it was able to be ranked among the top even in the Inner Academy. Why would they need to bother about these new students who had just entered this Outer Academy?

They followed the road and walked toward the place where Instructor Ruo Ling rested. Due to Xun Er and Hu Jia, they had attracted quite a number of gazes along the way. Some of the older students did recognize the few of them. However, some of the new students had faces filled with curiosity as they halted and looked over while repeatedly conversing privately among themselves.

They hurried throughout the entire journey. Around ten plus minutes later, Instructor Rou Ling's elegant home appeared in Xiao Yan's sight. He quietly sighed in relief as he increased the pace of his footsteps. A moment later, they finally arrived in front of the door before knocking on it gently.

"Creak!"

The door emitted a sound as it opened. A thin, pallid, pretty face that was somewhat familiar appeared in Xiao Yan's sight. With that straight lovely figure and the extremely representative long sleek legs, who else could it be but Xiao Yu?

Xiao Yu, who had opened the door, was also stunned when she saw the large group of people in front of it. However, when her gaze turned to Xiao Yan's face, she was immediately startled. The crystal clearness in her pretty eyes brewed gradually. It showed the traces of a storm rolling down.

"Don't cry, don't cry. Just what happened? I have rushed out without stopping." Xiao Yan watched Xiao Yu reveal this soft and weak attitude in front of him for the first time. He was greatly stunned and immediately spoke hurriedly.

The back of Xiao Yu's teeth bit her lower red lip tightly. She finally did

not cry out. All she did was pull his hand and hurriedly ran into the house. Under this unusual behavior of hers, Xiao Yan did not dare resist even a little, and allowed her to pull him forward as she pleased.

With Xiao Yu leading them, the group passed through the living room and finally arrived in front of a door. Only then did the former slow his footsteps and gently push open the door.

Xiao Yan's hand suddenly trembled slightly as he eyed Xiao Yu's expression. He slowly walked into the room and immediately saw a bed as well as the man lying on it.

The man was around twenty-five years old. At this moment, he had his eyes tightly shut and his complexion was as white as sheet. Moreover, it even contained a suffering look and his body would occasionally quiver slightly. That face of his was actually a little similar to Xiao Yan's.

Xiao Yan's eyes stared intently at the familiar face. His fist suddenly tightened. There was faintly some blood traces spreading out from his dark-black pupils. A moment later, a low voice that suppressed an incomparable fury was quietly emitted from his throat.

"Second Brother!"

# Chapter 545: The Unexpected Change In the Clan

The atmosphere in the room was so pressuring that it caused people to feel like they were suffocating. Lin Yan and the others eyed Xiao Yan, who was displaying such a boundless fury in front of them for the first time. They were quietly a little speechless. This fellow usually appeared to be gentle and filled with smiles when one saw him. It was really unexpected that he was actually this frightening when he was truly angered.

Xiao Yan's eyes stared intently at the pale-white face of Xiao Li. A long while later, he inhaled a deep breath of air and forcefully suppressed the fury within his heart. He turned around and spoke to the red-eyed Xiao Yu in a deep voice, "Just what happened? Shouldn't second elder brother be in the Jia Ma Empire? Why has he suddenly arrived at the Jia Nan Academy?"

"Two days ago, older cousin Xiao Li suddenly appeared at the entrance of the Jia Nan Academy and got someone to inform me about it. When I hurried out, I had already seen him in such a weak manner. Upon seeing me, he merely said one sentence before falling unconscious." Xiao Yu said softly.

"What sentence?" Xiao Yan's heart leaped as he asked in a hoarse voice.

"Inform Xiao Yan, something has happened to the Xiao clan!"

"Bang!"

A powerful force suddenly surged violently from the room. Xiao Yu, who was positioned closest to Xiao Yan was shaken and forced to take a couple of steps back. Immediately, her pretty face was shocked as she eyed Xiao Yan, whose expression had suddenly become frighteningly dark and solemn. This aura... was even stronger than that of Instructor Ruo Ling! They had not seen each other for only half a year, yet Xiao Yan's strength had already become this strong?

"Xiao Yan ge-ge, don't be agitated!" A figure hurriedly rushed to Xiao

Yan's side. Her delicate hand tightly grabbed Xiao Yan's arm as a faint golden glow surfaced. While being shined by this golden glow, Xiao Yan's aura, which was somewhat out of control, began to gradually calm down.

Xiao Yan hurriedly panted a couple of times. His hands still gently trembled in an involuntarily manner. The Xiao clan had already been secretly moved by Xiao Yan to the Mercenary Company that his big brother Xiao Ding was at before Xiao Yan left. Now, Xiao Li, who was the Second Company Leader of the 'Desert Metal Mercenary Company' had actually appeared in the Jia Nan Academy that was over ten thousand kilometers from the Jia Ma Empire. That meant that the entire mercenary company along with the Xiao clan, should have received an extremely frightening destructive blow.

Xiao Yan's fingernail pierced deeply into his palm. Fresh blood flowed from the gap between his fingers and dripped down. Xiao Yan eyed Xiao Li on the bed whose face was as white as sheet. Remorse was just like a knife, causing his heart to transmit waves of pain. It was really unexpected that by having the Xiao clan move to where his big brother was, he had instead harmed them...

The atmosphere in the room had become overcast due to the pressure. Xiao Yu's eyes had turned slightly red. With the trouble the Xiao clan was in, it was likely that her parents would have difficulty escaping from those murderous hands. This kind of unexpected turn in events also caused her to completely lose her own opinion. They did not know how many members of the Xiao clan were still surviving within the Xiao clan. Perhaps, if the situation was the worst, there may be only them, the younger generation, who were outside... Xiao Yu could not help but feel a misery within her heart the moment she thought of how an originally large clan had ended up in such a miserable situation. She began to weep softly.

Xiao Yan sat down gently by the side of the bed. He suppressed his trembling hands and held Xiao Li's arm. A thread of Dou Qi was transmitted into the latter's body and he only released the latter's hand a moment later. The gloominess on his face finally become a little fainter.

However, his voice was still hoarse, cold and stern, "Second brother has quite the serious internal injuries. It was likely that he was seriously wounded when exchanging blows with others. Fortunately, his life is not in danger."

Xiao Yan took out a healing medicine to cure internal injuries from within his storage ring. He stuffed it into Xiao Li's mouth. A moment later, the pale-white complexion of the latter become much better. Only then did Xiao Yan let out a gentle relieved sigh.

"Let's wait for second brother to wake up now. Once he wakes up, we will be able to know exactly what happened to the Xiao clan." Xiao Yan's face was dark and gloomy. His soft voice had a dark and cold killing intent that caused people's bones to turn cold.

"Don't tell me that this was done by the Misty Cloud Sect?" Xun Er said in a soft hesitating manner.

"If it is really the Misty Cloud Sect, I, Xiao Yan will fight with them to the end, all the way until the sect is destroyed!" A ferocious smile was suddenly pulled on the corner of Xiao Yan's mouth. His voice appeared to have been transmitted from hell and did not contain even the least bit of emotion.

Xun Er sighed softly. Within the Jia Ma Empire, it was likely that there would be hardly any other faction other than the Misty Cloud Sect who would dare to act so viciously toward the Xiao clan...

During the time that they waited for Xiao Li to wake up, the atmosphere within the room was overbearing and depressing. It resulted in Hu Jia and the others sighing quietly before quietly leaving in a somewhat unwilling manner, leaving this room for Xiao Yan's relatives.

"Cough..."

An intense coughing sound appeared within the silent room. Xiao Yan, who was seated by the side of the bed, abruptly lifted his head only to see Xiao Li slowly opening his eyes.

The two pairs of eyes looked at each other. The relationship between



brothers linked by blood caused the expression of the both of them to quietly become warmer.

“I am finally able to see you xiao-Yan-zi, I thought that I would not to able to walk over here.” Xiao Li leaned on the soft pillow. The wild joy that was on Xiao Li’s face when he saw Xiao Yan was gradually withdrawn. He smiled before sighing, “Three months. If it were not for me relying on a flying Magical Beast, I’m afraid that I would at least need a year in order to arrive here from the Jia Ma Empire.”

TL: xiao-Yan-zi – nickname – xiao (meaning small, not the surname) Yan (From Xiao Yan) zi (boy).

Xiao Yan eyed Xiao Li’s pale-white face. His nose involuntarily felt a little grief. Half a year ago, his second brother was still high-spirited and filled with fighting intent. Now, however, all that remained in his eyes was an increasingly dense ruthlessness.

“Second brother, what happened? Where is big brother?” Xiao Yan held Xiao Li’s arm and softly inquired.

The smile on Xiao Li’s face disappeared. A moment later, he raised his head and laughed. The laughter was filled with an extremely rich sorrow and fury. Under such a desolate laughter, the tears of Xiao Yu by the side rolled down.

“Is it the Misty Cloud Sect?” The back of Xiao Yan’s hand trembled rapidly. A fury and killing intent filled his heart and nearly buried his reasoning.

“Everything was calm during the two months after the Xiao clan had moved to the Desert Metal Mercenary Company. The search of the Misty Cloud Sect did not spread to the border areas. However, they came quietly just as we thought that the tense atmosphere was about to reach an end.”

“That night was coincidentally the time when our Desert Metal Mercenary Company would rejoice every month. However, it had turned into a blood feast. There were quite a number of people who surrounded and killed our Desert Metal Mercenary Company that night. Although they hid their identities, how can the sword aura that the unique Qi

Method of the Misty Cloud Sect be hidden?” Xiao Li laughed faintly. His face had an unforgettable vengeance. “The people who had surrounded and attacked our Desert Metal Mercenary Company were also extremely strong. Almost all the brothers of the mercenary company were killed or injured. Although the Xiao clan had a few elders who fought to their deaths in order to protect it, it also suffered quite serious losses.”

“Misty, Cloud, Sect... looks like that old bastard Yun Shan really plans to wipe all of us out!” Xiao Yan’s dark-black eyes were filled with blood traces. His face was so savage that it was frightening. Xiao Yan’s body trembled rapidly as a rich killing intent filled the entire room. A moment later, he stood up abruptly only to be hurriedly held back by Xun Er. “Xiao Yan ge-ge, where are you planning to go?”

“I am returning to the Jia Ma Empire! I want to let all the members of the Misty Cloud Sect be buried with those who died!” Xiao Yan’s dark voice carried a rich killing intent and ferocity.

“What else can you do other than ending up going to die for nothing if you return now? The Xiao clan is faced with a great disaster. Who else other than you can rescue them? If you were to die, how would I account to Uncle Xiao?” Xun Er understood that Xiao Yan had begun to lose control due to his fury when she saw this savage manner of Xiao Yan. She immediately cried out loud.

“Xiao Yan, stand still! The reason big brother got me to risk this life to travel for such a long distance to search for you is not to let you just run back in this manner!” Xiao Li angrily scolded, “This blood vengeance is something that we must avenge and you have a responsibility that you cannot shrink from. However, can the current you kill Yun Shan when you return?”

Xiao Yan’s body stiffened. His hair was scattered down from his forehead. A fury and killing intent that had been suppressed to the limit nearly caused him to become crazy.

“Moreover, this matter is also not so simple.” Xiao Li said in a dark and solemn voice.

Xiao Yan only recovered some of his calmness upon hearing this. His hoarse voice was just like a broken bellow. “What?”

“That night, there appeared to be something other than those from the Misty Cloud Sect that was hidden among those who had come to destroy our mercenary company that night...” A stern glint flickered in Xiao Li’s eyes. He did not hide his malice that was etched on his pale-white face. “Those fellows may have hidden in the darkness, but I was still able to sense that kind of dark and cold aura. They were just like a cluster of black shadows with a face that could not be seen. Moreover, they had an extremely clear target. All of them were targeting the members of our Xiao clan. Their attacks could not be blocked. Occasionally, a dark-black chain would shoot out from the darkness. These black-colored chains were extremely strange. It could even penetrate Dou Qi. Each time the metal chain rang within the dark night, there would be a clan member who would have his body pierced and dragged off.”

“Each time after these mysterious black shadows dragged off a member of our Xiao clan, they would search their bodies. From the looks of their actions, they did not appear to have been hired to kill. Instead, they seemed to be searching for something.”

“Black shadows? Metal chain attack?” These foreign terms entered Xiao Yan’s mind, only to cause his mind that had been filled with killing intent to suddenly feel an icy-cold wave. His mind moved swiftly and scene after scene swiftly flashed past. Finally, the image paused abruptly!

It was the black shadow, the black-colored chains... that he had haphazardly saw within the black storm in the ‘Black-Corner Plains’.

A coldness gradually rose in his body. Yao Lao’s and Xiao Yan’s voice carried a solemnness as they nearly sounded simultaneously, “Hall of Souls!”

“Why would they eye the Xiao clan? The Xiao clan does not have the slightest association with them!” Xiao Yan’s body stiffened. His hair had fallen down and covered his face while he muttered in his heart while carrying a thread of dark coldness.

Yao Lao had also become silent at this moment. He also could not understand why such an enormous and mysterious faction like the 'Hall of Souls' would be implicated with a small Xiao clan. It did not really appear to be possible that it was because of him. After all, it was impossible for the 'Hall of Souls' to know that he was by Xiao Yan's side.

"We do not know what exactly they were looking for. However, the First Elder had spoken to big brother and me just before he died." Xiao Li suddenly raised his head and eyed Xiao Yan when he spoke until this point. He said, "He asked that you must preserve the jade of the Xiao clan, and must definitely not allow it to fall in the hands of an outsider!"

An icy-cool feeling suddenly surfaced in Xiao Yan's mind. A thread of cold wind was spat out from Xiao Yan's mouth as an awed voice slowly sounded in his heart, "So it's... their aim is... the 'Tou She Ancient God's Jade'!"

# Chapter 546: The Participation of the 'Hall of Souls'

Silence once again surfaced in the room. It was a long while later before Xiao Yan, who had understood the cause and effect, to slowly let out a breath of air. His voice was low as he asked, "How is big brother?"

"We were being chased all the way. With our strength, the Xiao clan's elimination would not be unexpected if it continued. However, it was fortunate that some reinforcements appeared at a critical point which saved our remaining Xiao clan." Happiness appeared on Xiao Li's pale-white face when he spoke until this point.

"Reinforcements? There is still a faction in the Jia Ma Empire who dares to contend with the Misty Cloud Sect?" Xiao Yan was startled when he heard this as he spoke with a frown.

"The reinforcement appeared in the dark-black forest. At first, we also did not know about it. Those who came only revealed their identities after pushing back those that were giving chase. That person is also someone you know. It is that old man who had once followed beside you."

"Hai Bodong? Old Hai?" Xiao Yan was slightly stunned. The face of an old man who always had a cold and indifferent expression slowly surfaced in Xiao Yan's mind. Xiao Yan nodded as he came to a sudden understanding. He kept gratitude within his heart. This kindness of Hai Bodong who had taken action to rescue the remnants of the Xiao clan was quite great. It was likely that Xiao Yan had to return it properly to the other party in the future.

"Big brother may have also been seriously injured, but it was fortunate that he retained his life with the help of that old man. That person appears to have an extremely high position within the Primer clan. Therefore, the remnant members of the Xiao clan who had survived have been secretly moved under their protection to a place beyond the reach of the Misty Cloud Sect. The flying Magical Beast that I rode to the Jia Nan Academy was also borrowed from the Primer clan. Otherwise, with our

current financial ability, I would only be able to walk to the Jia Nan Academy on my feet.”

“However, this ‘Black-Corner Region’ is indeed worthy of being the most chaotic place. Hee hee, I had been secretly backstabbed a couple of times during this period of time and had nearly left this little life of mine there. These injuries were also obtained from the ‘Black-Corner Region’. Those fellows are really as vicious as hungry wolves.”

Xiao Yan clenched his teeth tightly. He had personally experienced how chaotic and bloody the ‘Black-Corner Region’ was and naturally clearly understood that Xiao Li could have been considered to have traveled tens of thousands of kilometers, climbed mountains, and waded through waters in order to come and inform him about the unexpected change in the Xiao clan.

Xiao Li smiled bitterly and said, “Currently, the Desert Metal Mercenary Company is completely finished. The Xiao clan is a little better off. However, it is in a battered shape. Its strength is no longer like it was in the past. We have to live in secret and struggle to survive while at death’s door.”

Xiao Yan held Xiao Li’s hand. He said in a soft voice that has a repressed vengeance, “Second brother, I will definitely avenge this blood debt!”

“We must naturally avenge it. This Misty Cloud Sect has forced our Xiao clan into this manner. How would we account to those Elders who had fought to their death to protect it if we don’t kill that old dog Yun Shan?” A malice surfaced on Xiao Li’s face as he spoke with a thick smile, “As long as us three brothers are still alive, we will let the Misty Cloud Sect suffer great losses!”

Xiao Yan nodded quietly. His heart felt a little wider. At least, nothing had happened to his big brother and second brother. He really dared not think whether he would be able to retain his sense of reasoning like he did now if his big brother and second brother were to die in an attack by the Misty Cloud Sect.

“Older cousin Xiao Li, my... are my parents alright?” Xiao Yu at the side

suddenly spoke. Her voice carried a tremble.

“Ke ke, Xiao Yu, you are really becoming more and more beautiful after not seeing you for a couple of years...” The malice on Xiao Li’s face disappeared as he eyed Xiao Yu, whose eyes had turned red. He mused for a moment and said in a somewhat ashamed manner, “Aunt Xiao is alright, but uncle lost an arm during the battle...”

Xiao Yu’s eyes became even redder. However, it was fortunate that the worst situation that Xiao Yu had expected did not occur. Therefore, her extremely tense mind did not collapse because of this. She quietly stood to one side after nodding slightly.

“Second brother, you should first recuperate from your injuries. The blood feud of our clan must be avenged, but you can rest assured that I will not be reckless. It was just that the blood had rushed to my head earlier.” Xiao Yan once again took out a medicinal pill from his storage ring and handed it to Xiao Li as he spoke softly.

Xiao Li received the medicinal pill and stuffed it into his mouth without the slightest hesitation. His eyes stared directly at Xiao Yan and he said in a deep voice, “Other people can be reckless, but you can not. Now, you are the only hope of the entire Xiao clan. The matter of Father’s disappearance also requires your strength. Your big brother and I possess training talents that are inferior to you. We can die, but you can not! If any accident were to befall you, the Xiao clan would be completely finished!”

Xiao Yan nodded slightly as he smiled and patted Xiao Li’s hand. He spoke to Xiao Yu, “Can you take care of second brother first? I need to speak with Xun Er.” Once he said this, he lifted his chin toward Xun Er before the two of them slowly withdrew out of the room.

“Tell me some information about the so called ‘Hall of Souls’. With your background, I think that you should have heard of them.” Xiao Yan’s expression once again turned dark and solemn on the roof as he spoke indifferently to Xun Er.

“‘Hall of Souls’? How do you know about them?” Xun Er’s face immediately changed a little when she heard this name pop out of Xiao

Yan's mouth.

"I have once met them by chance. The attacking method of those black shadows that second brother described is nearly completely the same as those few people from the 'Hall of Souls'. I think that they are definitely somehow involved in this matter." Xiao Yan waved his hand. His eyes stared at Xun Er as he spoke in a deep voice, "Tell me."

Xun Er hesitated a little while under Xiao Yan's gaze. She finally smiled bitterly and nodded. She arranged the information related about the 'Hall of Souls' within her mind before speaking slowly, "The 'Hall of Souls' is an extremely mysterious and strange organization on the continent. The thing that they like to do most is to search for spiritual bodies all over the continent. After which, they capture them. Even I am not certain why they want so many spiritual bodies... this organization has traces that are all over the continent. It is just unexpected that they would infiltrate even a conservative country like the Jia Ma Empire."

"The 'Hall of Souls' has existed for quite a long time. Therefore, they are similarly aware of many secrets on the continent. I think that the reason for them to look for the Xiao clan should be related to the 'Tou She Ancient God's Jade' in Xiao Yan ge-ge's hands." Xun Er sighed softly. She quickly continued, "The piece of 'Tou She Ancient God's Jade' in Xiao Yan ge-ge's hand is actually merely a portion of a 'key'. There are other portions that were left in other places of the continent. My clan has a portion. Additionally... this 'Hall of Souls' also possesses a portion."

"These 'keys' contain an extremely great secret. I am also not the slightest bit aware of what exactly this secret entails. The only thing I can tell Xiao Yan ge-ge is that no matter whether it is my clan or the 'Hall of Souls', they value these 'keys' to the extreme. Back then, in order to fight for these 'keys', my clan fought with the 'Hall of Souls'. Although we were finally victorious, we did not get what we wished."

"Now that the 'Hall of Souls' has attacked the Xiao clan, it is likely that they had obtained some news about that portion of the 'key' from some unknown source. Otherwise, the strength of the Xiao clan would have been insufficient to attract them to take action. What is a little unexpected



is how the Misty Cloud Sect has become associated with the ‘Hall of Souls’.” Xun Er said softly.

“However, from what second brother has said, that old man called Hai Bo Dong was able to force back those people chasing the Xiao clan. From this, it seems that the ‘Hall of Souls’ did not really send their true experts. Of course, my clan is constantly observing their actions. Therefore, their true experts could not have gone.”

“Key, key, it is that damn key again!” Xiao Yan’s hand violently smashed on the wall in front of him as he spoke furiously.

“Xiao Yan ge-ge, remember the words that I spoke to you the last time. You must not tell anyone about the matter of the ‘Tou She Ancient God’s Jade’ being in your hand. Do not even tell older cousin Xiao Li. Otherwise, should he accidentally leak the information, the ‘Hall of Souls’ would come after you just in a never ending manner like the maggots in the tarsal bones.” Xun Er took a step forward. Her soft body was pasted on Xiao Yan’s body as she lowered her voice and spoke to him in a serious manner.

Xiao Yan clenched his teeth tightly and eyed the elegant face that was just next to him. He sniffed the faint fragrance that drifted into his nostrils as his hands embraced abruptly, violently pulling Xun Er into a hug. He had been unable to hide the remorse he felt in his heart in front of the person closest to him. His voice was hoarse as he said, “If I had not acted in a young and arrogant manner back then and created the whatever Three Year Agreement with Nalan Yanran, I’m afraid that things would not become like what they are today. I would also have not implicated the clan until it became ruined, and my relatives would not have to be separated!”

“If a person did not act frivolously, their youth would have been in vain. Xiao Yan ge-ge, you are not wrong.” Xun Er’s soft and gentle cheek leaned on Xiao Yan’s shoulders as she replied gently, “Wealth would bring greed and bring harm. Even if Xiao Yan ge-ge did not come into conflict with the Misty Cloud Sect, that ‘Hall of Souls’ would have sooner or later arrived at the door of the Xiao clan. Moreover, with their vicious means, they would

definitely have wiped out everyone. At that time, the Xiao clan would have either suffered serious losses or have been completely destroyed.”

“The only thing that you can do now is to get yourself to become stronger. It is just as second brother said. Both the vengeance of the clan, and the matter of the disappearance of uncle Xiao Zhan must rely on you. You are currently the support pillar of the Xiao clan. If you were to fall, the entire clan would no longer have the chance to stand up!”

“Therefore, Xiao Yan ge-ge, you must remember that the Xiao clan has yet to fall at this moment. Big brother is currently in the Jia Ma Empire leading the remaining members of the Xiao clan. They still require you to return.”

The gentle voice that came out like a strength-draining drug that caused Xiao Yan’s heart, which had been filled with vengeance and killing intent, to gradually recover its previous clarity and brightness. It was a long while later before Xiao Yan eventually raised his head and inhaled a mouthful of icy-cool air. He relaxed his arm that was embracing Xun Er’s waist. That delicate and handsome face lacked the lazy smile that was usually carelessly hanging on it. Instead, there was an additional faint cold sternness. At this moment, Xiao Yan could have been considered to have completely extracted himself from the tenderness of youth under the blow of the changes in the Xiao clan.

A person would only truly change and grow up after experiencing a setback.

“Relax, I will no longer be reckless in the future. I will return once I have sufficient strength. At that time, I will get the Misty Cloud Sect to repay all its debt by a hundred times!” Xiao Yan’s hand touched Xun Er lovely and tender face. His voice was, however, dense, cold, and dark.

# Chapter 547: Xiao Li's Plan

Due to Xiao Li's injuries, Xiao Yan was not in a hurry to return to the Inner Academy. Instead, he stayed in the Outer Academy for a couple of days. During this period of time, Xiao Li's injuries had not only recovered quickly under the numerous expensive medicinal pills of Xiao Yan, but his strength had also advanced greatly.

Xiao Yan had naturally probed Xiao Li's current strength during the period that the latter was recuperating. He was currently at the peak of the Dou Shi class and could break through that barrier anytime, leaping to become a Da Dou Shi.

Xiao Yan pondered a little about this before he secretly added a drop of 'Core Quenching Body Milk' during Xiao Li's recuperation. Borrowing this enormous energy, Xiao Li finally broke through the Dou Shi barrier as he had desired, and took the first step in advancing to a Da Dou Shi!

Although Xiao Li's wounds had been completely cured and his strength had advanced greatly, his entire aura had undoubtedly become much darker and sterner than before after undergoing such a great change. He was still a little better when faced with his relatives like Xiao Yan. However, when he talked to an outsider, the thick cold glint in his eyes that was as sharp as an eagle caused other people to have the feeling of sitting on needles.

Xiao Yan did not have any other solution with regards to this. It was impossible not to change a little after experiencing such a great disaster. The problem that he currently needed to think about was how to arrange for his second brother, Xiao Li, to stay. This Jia Nan Academy was after all a renowned academy in the continent. A person of questionable background could not continue to stay within it. If he had not borrowed the status of Hu Jia and Wu Hao during this period of time, it was likely that there would have been members of the academy's Law Enforcement Unit coming to expel Xiao Li.

Xiao Yan had originally intended to introduce Xiao Li to the Jia Nan

Academy. After all, the training talent of the latter was quite good. However, after experiencing this change, the dark and cold aura of Xiao Li was not suitable to stay for long in the academy with its calm atmosphere. Moreover, with the latter's character, it was likely that he would not be an obedient student within the academy.

Just as Xiao Yan was having a little headache, Xiao Li took the lead to look for him. The decision that Xiao Li spoke caused Xiao Yan to be stunned.

"I wish to go into the 'Black-Corner Region'." Xiao Li licked his mouth within the room as he eyed Xiao Yan's stunned manner. A smile was revealed on his cold and stern face as he spoke, "I discovered that the atmosphere there is very suitable for me. When I was in the Jia Ma Empire in the past, there was always something restricting me regardless of what I did. On the other hand, there are no rules within that 'Black-Corner Region'. Therefore... I can use any means, including unscrupulous ones to build some things there."

"Although the 'Black-Corner Region' is a place without rules, it is also overly chaotic. A person who is weak is unlikely to have a large chance to survive for long." Xiao Yan, who had personally experienced that chaos was naturally not too willing to allow Xiao Li to go to that kind of place. Therefore, he did his best to persuade the latter.

"Relax. No matter how one puts it, I am considered someone of the Da Dou Shi class now. Moreover, in that kind of place, it is not as though one must use force for everything." Xiao Li waved his hand. Seeing that Xiao Yan was still hesitating, he could only helplessly take out two scrolls, where a silver-colored bright glow was flickering, from his chest pocket. He said, "This is a set of a lightning affinity Qi Method and a Dou Technique. Its level is sufficient to reach the Middle Xuan class. Moreover, if the two of them are used in unison, their strength would increase by multiple times. Even if one were to use a High Xuan class Qi Method and Dou Technique, the attack's strength would have difficulty matching with it."

"Uh? Where did you get this from?" Xiao Yan was startled when he

heard this as he spoke in a stunned voice. A Qi Method of this class was not only that of the rare lightning affinity but was actually a set. This price was something that even an ordinary High Xuan Qi Method would have difficulty matching.

“Hee hee, this was given by that girl Xun Er.” Xiao Li laughed, “After not having seen her for so many years, she is still completely obedient and docile toward you. You better not let her down. She may have grown up in the Xiao clan since she was young, but she is not a member of the Xiao clan. I think you should be aware of this.”

“As expected...” Xiao Yan laughed bitterly and shook his head. He just knew it. Who else other than that girl Xun Er could simply just take out such a valuable Qi Method? Xiao Yan had also automatically ignored the last few words of Xiao Li. The current him did not have the time and qualification to discuss these matters.

“Therefore, you need not be the least bit concerned. With my lightning affinity Dou Qi and adding this Qi Method and Dou Technique, even an ordinary four or five star Da Dou Shi can do nothing to me.” Xiao Li smiled. However, his smile hid a little bloodthirst. “Moreover, the both of us are now carrying a vengeance. Therefore, I cannot just die this easily.”

Xiao Yan studied Xiao Li’s eyes. It was a long while later before he sighed softly. He understood Xiao Li very well. As long it was something that the latter had decided, it would be difficult for even nine bulls to pull him back...

Xiao Yan frowned as he mused for a moment. He suddenly flipped his hand and a strange dark-black scroll suddenly appeared in his hand. After rubbing it carefully, he handed it to Xiao Li and said softly, “This is a Flying Dou Technique scroll. It is named ‘Lightning Bat Sky Wings’. After you practice it, you will possess a flying ability just like a strong Dou Wang. However, it greatly exhausts your Dou Qi. Additionally... Unless it is a crucial time where you need to flee, it would be best for second brother not to easily display it. The origin of this thing is shady. If someone were to recognize it, it is likely that will bring about an unexpected calamity.”

This ‘Lightning Bat Sky Wings ‘ was something that Xiao Yan had obtained from killing the junior sect leader of the ‘Blood Sect’ back then. It had once shown itself in the auction house and many people knew that the junior sect leader of the ‘Blood Sect’ had purchased it. Now that the person had died, it was likely that those fellows from the ‘Blood Sect’ would send someone to kill Xiao Li if this kind of dirty item was identified to be in Xiao Li’s hands.

For the sake of Xiao Li’s safety in the ‘Black-Corner Region’, Xiao Yan had also quietly told him about this secret in order for him to be cautious of the ‘Blood Sect’.

“Hee hee, this is really a good thing.” Xiao Li’s face was filled with joy as he received the dark-black scroll. He was not the least bit courteous as he stuffed it into his breast pocket. He immediately spoke with a dark vulturous tone, “Relax, I will pay attention to that ‘Blood Sect’. I have also heard about them when I passed by the ‘Black-Corner Region’.”

“You should temporarily stay for these few days. I will refine some medicinal pills for you to protect yourself.” Xiao Yan nodded slightly before immediately hesitating a little as he spoke.

“Ke ke, alright.” Xiao Li also clearly understood that Xiao Yan was worried about him making a living within the ‘Black-Corner Region’. Therefore, it was likely that Xiao Yan was unwilling to let him leave. Hence, Xiao Li did not reject Xiao Yan.

Xiao Yan sighed gently. He gave a bitter smile as he patted Xiao Li’s shoulders. Immediately, he turned around and walked into a quiet room to begin refining medicinal pills.

In order to give Xiao Li the best protection, Xiao Yan naturally needed to prepare the ‘Dragon Strength Pill’ that could greatly raise one’s physical strength within a short period of time. Although the medicinal ingredients needed for this ‘Dragon Strength Pill’ were complicated, Xiao Yan was coincidentally in possession of three sets of medicinal pills that Elder Liu had sent him. As Xiao Yan’s chances of success in refining a ‘Dragon Strength Pill’ were not considered very high, he invited Yao Lao to do the

refinement this time around.

With Yao Lao, an alchemist grandmaster, helping out, Xiao Yan naturally had a bountiful gain. The three sets of medicinal ingredients had all successfully agglomerated into pill shapes and eventually turned into pills without exception under the dancing thick white flame.

Yao Lao did not immediately stop after helping Xiao Yan refine the 'Dragon Strength Pill'. He clearly knew how much Xiao Yan valued Xiao Li. If anything were to happen to Xiao Li in the 'Black-Corner Region', this fellow might become totally crazy at that time.

Hence, Yao Lao did not rest as he activated his flame after putting away the 'Dragon Strength Pill' into a jade bottle. He spent quite a bit of time to refine a batch of varying medicinal pills belonging to quite a high tier. These medicinal pills had various unique medicinal effects. Although they were not ordinary medicinal pills, they were able to obtain an unexpected effect during certain times.

Xiao Yan's heart was also filled with gratitude toward Yao Lao who had spent great thought and effort in his refinement. He could only quietly swear in his heart that he would cobble together the 'Heavenly Flames' as soon as possible and help refine a body that could accommodate Teacher's spirit.

On the second day, Xiao Yan gave all the medicinal pills that had been refined to Xiao Li with the exception of a 'Dragon Strength Pill' that Elder Liu needed. Moreover, he also gave Xiao Li a dark-black storage ring on top of the medicinal pills. This storage ring had a cluster of 'Bone Chilling Flame' that Yao Lao had wrapped with his Spiritual Strength. If one was able to unleash it at a critical juncture, it would achieve the effect of hurting the enemy. However, this kind of storage method could merely be used once. Moreover, it would cause quite a bit of damage to one's own Spiritual Strength. Hence, this could be considered a final trump card that preserved Xiao Li's life other than the 'Lightning Bat Sky Wings'.

Xiao Li eyed Xiao Yan's worried expression as he received all the things from the latter. A warm feeling surfaced in his eyes, which were usually

filled with a dark sternness. He patted Xiao Yan's back heavily and smiled as he said, "Xiao-Yan-zi, you can relax, your second brother will not lose to any one of those bastards in the 'Black-Corner Region' when it comes to being vicious. Among us three brothers, we cannot simply just rely on you for everything right?"

Xiao Yan nodded slightly as he softly spoke, "Second brother, take care. You can just come and find me in the Jia Nan Academy if you have any problem. Additionally, if you meet the Law Enforcement Unit of the Jia Nan Academy, you can tell them Wu Hao's name."

"Rest assured. I will occasionally send someone to give you a letter and allow you to know my whereabouts."

Xiao Li nodded his head. His body stood straight for a moment as he faced and waved at Xiao Yan as well as Xun Er, Xiao Yu, and the others behind. After which, he suddenly turned around without feeling unwilling to be apart as he strode out the gate of the academy, heading toward the distant area that was filled with chaos.

"Xiao Yan ge-ge, you need not be too worried. With older cousin Xiao Li's character, he will definitely get along very well within that 'Black-Corner Region'. By the next time you see him, the faction that he established might well have far exceeded your 'Pan's Gate'." Xun Er gently spoke with a smile as she looked Xiao Yan's eyes who was watching Xiao Li leave.

"Ke ke, Xun Er, thank you very much." Xiao Yan stood at the entrance to the academy and eyed Xiao Li's back that had gradually become blurred. A long time later, he let out a long breath and smiled to Xun Er. This thanks was naturally to thank her for the help that she had given Xiao Li.

"Does Xiao Yan ge-ge need to be so courteous to Xun Er? You will ultimately not accept the things that I give you. Therefore, I can only give them to older cousin Xiao Li instead." Xun Er said with a saucy smile.

Xiao Yan smiled and nodded quietly. He turned around and walked back into the academy while speaking in a faint voice, "Let's go. It is time for us to return. The 'Strong Ranking' Grand Competition is about to arrive. This



time around, I must enter the top ten!”

“I must!”

# Chapter 548: Put up a Stage and Receive Challengers

After completely settling Xiao Li's matter, Xiao Yan was finally able to return to the Inner Academy with his heart at ease and prepare for the 'Strong Ranking Grand Competition' that was about to arrive in the Inner Academy. However, he also met with Xiao Yu, Xiao Mei, and Xiao Ning before he left. Now that the Xiao clan had suffered extremely great losses with an unknown number of clan members having died in the hands of the Misty Cloud Sect and the 'Hall of Souls'. Xiao Yan was much gentler when compared to before when faced with these three relatives who had a blood relationship with him. Given his character, he would naturally not care about some of the grudges from when they were young. No matter how one put it, they belonged to one clan. Moreover, it was undoubtedly easier to give trust to relatives with a blood relationship compared to outsiders.

The Inner Academy Qualifying Competition this year would once again begin after another half a year. This time around, it was not difficult for Xiao Yu to enter given her strength. It was a little more risky for Xiao Mei and Xiao Ning. However, this kind of risk was naturally not much of a trouble in front of Xiao Yan who was a tier five alchemist. During the time that Yao Lao had refined some medicinal pills with mysterious and unique effects, Xiao Yan had also obtained quite a number of medicinal formulas. These medicinal pills may not be able to let Xiao Ning or Xiao Mei take the champion spot in one go, but it should not be too difficult for them to enter the top fifty as long as their luck was not too terrible.

Xiao Yan also became completely at ease after arranging all these troublesome matters. He bid the three of them goodbye before once again riding a Griffin with Xun Er and the rest to hurry back to the Inner Academy.

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By the time that Xiao Yan and the rest had hurried back to the Inner

Academy, there was less than twenty-five days until the Inner Academy's 'Strong Ranking' Grand Competition. As the grand competition was approaching, the conversation topic of the entire Inner Academy had basically turned toward this competition that was called the most intense and energy-filled competition and was solely for the experts on the 'Strong Ranking'.

The people who were able to enter into the top fifty of the 'Strong Ranking' were all basically the top people within the Inner Academy. A fight between them naturally possessed a great attraction to many people's eyes. Thus, although only the students with names on the 'Strong Ranking' were qualified to be competitors of this kind of grand competition, this did not hinder the focus and anticipation the students of the Inner Academy had for it.

As everyone began to spread the news to each other in this nearly crazy manner, the atmosphere of the entire inner academy ascended into a high greater than the last couple of years. After all, as long as one successfully entered the top ten, one would be able to successfully become a potential Elder candidate of the Inner Academy. This kind of special status would basically allow one to walk unhindered without fear among the students of this Inner Academy. The Elders and the students were two totally different identities. Countless numbers of people had fought until their heads were broken while desiring to take that step. However, that harsh criteria caused most people to quietly withdraw.

Of course, the reason for the position of an Inner Academy Elder being so greatly coveted was naturally not because one would be able to act triumphantly among the students. The most important reason was that only an Elder had the qualification to enter the lowest levels of the 'Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower'.

The benefit of the 'Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower', being able to raise one's training speed, was something that the people in the Inner Academy had already experienced. Therefore, many people naturally coveted the qualification to enter the last few levels of the tower that the students were not allowed to enter. It was likely that one could save the time one

took to enter the Dou Huang class if one trained there. Of course, this was if one also possessed such a talent... after all, attempting to advance to the Dou Huang class was definitely not an easy matter even if one had the help of the 'Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower'.

Hence, as long as it was someone who had some ability, he or she would have a fiery hot desire for the top ten ranking of the 'Strong Ranking'. That position and the special treatment was sufficient to allow one to completely become a strong person!

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Additionally, due to the issue of the qualification to participate in the 'Strong Ranking' Grand Competition, the Inner Academy had currently descended into a wild wave of challenging one another. The strong people who had usually buried their heads and trained bitterly had erupted and turned into an overnight success at this moment. In a short while, the Inner Academy became turbulent. The fiery hot atmosphere had reached an unprecedented high. During this nearly wild challenging tide, batches after batches of dark horses, that shocked people, surged out in an unceasing manner.

The surging appearance of these dark horses naturally and inevitably caused an extremely intense competition for a name on the 'Strong Ranking'. During these short few days, with the exception of the top twenty on the 'Strong Ranking' which did not have much movement, there were people among the last thirty positions who were forcefully pulled down by people who usually kept a low profile everyday, attracting countless number of exclamations.

In this kind of wild wave, Xiao Yan, who was the 34th rank on the 'Strong Ranking' was clearly unable to stay out of it. Moreover, perhaps it was because he had consumed a medicinal pill during his victory against Bai Cheng, but the challenge letters that he received were basically a couple of times more than any other experts on the 'Strong Ranking'. Clearly, these people were all thinking of stepping on Xiao Yan's head and snatch away his qualification to participate in the competition.

Faced with these flocks of unceasing challenges, Xiao Yan would definitely find an excuse to hide given his somewhat lazy character in the past. This time around, however, perhaps it was due to the change that had occurred to his clan but Xiao Yan, who had become a little colder, had unexpectedly not rejected any challenge. Instead, he had stunned everyone by building his own fighting stage at the entrance of 'Pan's Gate'. Everyday, he would choose five people from those challenge letters and face each one of them head on in a fight.

These actions of Xiao Yan at such a crucial juncture naturally stimulated an uproar within the entire Inner Academy. In an instant, the entrance to 'Pan's Gate' was basically blocked until nothing could pass through. This was the first time that Xiao Yan had openly accepted challenges after defeating Bai Cheng and obtaining the 34th rank on the 'Strong Ranking'. Naturally, there were a countless number of people who swarmed over to see whether he could maintain a strength that was similar to the last time.

Of course, there were naturally some people with ill intent who hoped and cursed that Xiao Yan would be utterly defeated in front of a countless number of people on the fighting stage.

Unfortunately, those that carried a certain anticipation that this dark horse Xiao Yan would be defeated in this way would not realize their dream. The final battle result shocked the surrounding audience until they were completely silent.

The fighting stage was conducted for a total of three days.

There were five challengers on the first day. Four of them were two star Dou Lings and one three star Dou Ling. All five of them were defeated.

There were five challengers on the second day. Three of them were three star Dou Lings and two were four star Dou Lings. All five of them were defeated.

There were five challengers on the third day. One of them was a four star Dou Ling, three of them were five star Dou Lings and one was a six star Dou Ling. The fight continued from morning until night. All five were... defeated! Moreover, the strongest final six star Dou Ling ended up

with serious injuries!

Xiao Yan did not lose even one of the fights in the fifteen matches during the three days. He sat tight on this 34th rank on the 'Strong Ranking' in front of everyone. His ranking even rose a little. This was because the last six star Dou Ling was ranked 31st.

A fighting result with complete victory shocked the surrounding curious audience until they did not dare to emit the slightest unusual sound. The moment when the body of the six star Dou Ling smashed on the ground outside of the arena, only the thunder-like wild cheers of the members of the 'Pan's Gate' lingered for a long time in the night sky...

As they watched the black-robed young man whose clothes appeared messy and tattered after fighting for an entire day, some of the people who had originally issued a challenge letter began to shift their eyes away somewhat guiltily under the gaze of those dark-black pupils that were as cold as the night. For some unknown reason, the fighting style of Xiao Yan when he fought with others during these three days was undoubtedly much more vicious compared to when he fought with Bai Cheng back then. Moreover, due to the five high intensity battles each day, not only did Xiao Yan's attacking style swiftly become skilled and sharp under everyone's eyes, but his aura had also become increasingly more powerful...

Only at this moment did some of those with sharper minds come to a sudden understanding. These actions of Xiao Yan were not just because he wanted to put an end to the unceasing number of challenges. A greater part of it was perhaps the intention to borrow the strength of others to hone himself! From the current situation, it appeared that these actions of his had obtained a great success. Under this ferocious result of winning all fifteen matches, not only was there no longer anyone who issued challenges to him, thinking that Xiao Yan was a softie among the last thirty of the 'Strong Ranking', but Xiao Yan's strength had also advanced quite a lot. Some of the sharp-eyed people even suspected that Xiao Yan's strength had appeared to have gradually entered into the level of a two star Dou Ling. Although his true fighting strength... had long since far

exceeded this level.

The top thirty experts of the 'Strong Ranking' may have heard a little about Xiao Yan's act of building a fighting stage and accepting challenges but as the grand competition drew near, these people, who were in a rush for time, were basically undergoing tough training all the time. Hence, other than that six star Dou Ling, there were no other opponents who were difficult to deal with coming to tear at Xiao Yan's stage.

Hence, following the end of the fifteenth battle, Xiao Yan, who had obtained fifteen consecutive victories, did not stay on the fighting stage any longer. His cold gaze swept all around him. No one dared to receive his gaze wherever it passed. Immediately, Xiao Yan turned around and left.

The sky had just become bright on the morning of the fourth day when the ferocious battle results of Xiao Yan's fifteen consecutive victories were being carried by various different rumors. They spread throughout the entire Inner Academy like the wind. In an instant, the name of Xiao Yan had once again become the focus of attention of the entire academy. 'Pan's Gate' was just like a boat rising with the rising tide of Xiao Yan. The reputation of this faction had already begun to show signs of faintly catching up with the top factions that had been established by Lin Xiuya and the other experts at the top of the 'Strong Ranking'.

However, just as Xiao Yan had once again become the focus of attention of the entire Inner Academy, he, as the main character, once again strangely disappeared. This caused those who wanted to pay tribute to this top alchemist of the Inner Academy and the person occupying the 31st rank on the 'Strong Ranking' to return with disappointment.

Of course, it was difficult to keep any movement a complete secret. This was especially so in the Inner Academy which was filled with numerous kinds of people. Hence, not long after some people were uncertain about where Xiao Yan had gone to, news suddenly began to spread around.

"I heard that Xiao Yan appears to have gone to the sixth level of the 'Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower' to undertake a retreat and train..."

# Chapter 549: Yao Sheng

Xiao Yan walked to the sixth level of the 'Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower.' He eyed the space in the tower that was more open when compared to the previous few levels. He could not help but quietly sigh in his heart, "With this kind of environment and treatment, it is indeed worthy of being a place that only the top experts from the Inner Academy have the qualifications to enter."

The space of the sixth level was quite large. The rock walls in the tower were dark-pink in color. Threads of strange heat were seeping out from within, causing one's entire body to feel a relaxed warm feeling. This place may be spacious, but there were so few people that it was pathetic. Xiao Yan glanced over it. This large place merely had a few countable human figures standing within it. Compared to the situation above where there was a sea of people, there was undoubtedly a difference that was as vast as that of the Heavens and the Earth.

The conditions to enter the sixth level were extremely harsh. Even some of the experts on the 'Strong Ranking' did not possess that kind of qualification. Therefore, it was within reason that there were very few people present.

Xiao Yan's gaze merely gave this place a rough glance before he ceased hesitating and walked to the deep region of the sixth level.

Xiao Yan naturally adopted a plan to undertake a retreat by coming to the sixth level of the 'Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower' at this moment. The approaching 'Strong Ranking' Grand Competition had also caused him to feel a little anxious. It might have been because of the pain and fury caused by the change in the condition of his clan that allowed his aura to reach the peak of a one star Dou Ling. In addition, he was lucky to break through to a two star Dou Ling in the three days of closely packed intense fights, he still felt a quite a great pressure to enter the top ten of the 'Strong Ranking' grand competition within this strength. After all, the current top ten of the 'Strong Ranking' were all at the peak of the Dou Ling class. Lin Xiuya, Yan Hao, Liu Qing, and the others had even managed



to touch a little of the barrier to the Dou Wang class. Such strength was sufficient to contend with the leaders of some factions within the 'Black-Corner Region'. How could an ordinary 'Strong Ranking' expert pose even the slightest threat to them?

There was nearly twenty more days until the beginning of the 'Strong Ranking' Grand Competition. Xiao Yan's plan was to try to raise his strength as much as possible during these twenty days, increasing his chances of entering the top ten by a little.

The place within the Inner Academy that could enable one to increase one's strength was naturally the 'Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower'. Adding this to the extra qualification that Xiao Yan currently had, this sixth level was naturally the best choice!

.....

Xiao Yan walked slowly into the deeper regions. Along the way, Xiao Yan was somewhat surprised to find that the training rooms on this sixth level were much more exquisite than those of the fifth level while the number of rooms was actually reduced by over half. Xiao Yan mused a little with regards to this only to come to a sudden understanding. There were not many students in each batch who had the qualifications to enter this place to train. Hence, there was no need for many training rooms.

Xiao Yan gradually entered the area of the sixth level. This place was quite a large resting ground. There were around a couple dozen human figures there. All of these people had extraordinary auras. Powerful breaths spread out from their bodies and surrounded this resting place. Clearly, the strength of these people could at the very least be ranked within the top thirty of the 'Strong Ranking'.

Some private conversations suddenly sounded quietly the moment that Xiao Yan stepped into the resting area. Numerous gazes that appeared calm, but contained sharp glints shot out. Finally, they stopped on Xiao Yan who had just entered the place. They were immediately startled as soft uncertain voices sounded.

"Two star Dou Ling? Since when can someone with this kind of strength

enter the sixth level? Has the Inner Academy lowered the criteria?"

Some people as expected began to ask such questions. Although Xiao Yan had quite a great reputation within the Inner Academy, every single person who could stand here had a prominent reputation within the Inner Academy. Perhaps they had heard of the name Xiao Yan, but there were very few of them who had seen him. After all, with their character of being crazy over training, they would seldom go and pay attention to matters that were not very related to them. Hence, they felt a little uncertain and surprise when they saw that Xiao Yan could actually enter the sixth level with the strength of a two star Dou Ling.

"Xiao Yan?" Of course, it was not as though everyone did not recognize Xiao Yan. Not long after Xiao Yan appeared, a surprising but familiar voice sounded. Lin Yan's figure immediately appeared in Xiao Yan's sight.

Xiao Yan smiled when faced with Lin Yan. He gave a careless greeting, "It is really unexpected that you are also here."

"Looks like you really have quite a great amount of special privilege in this Inner Academy. You are actually able to step into the sixth level with just the strength of a two star Dou Ling. I wonder how many would be envious." Lin Yan smiled as he spoke.

Xiao Yan smiled, but did not express any remarks because of this.

"Little fellow, I heard that you actually took on fifteen challengers and did not even lose to one of them? What a lucky fellow. You should pray and give thanks that those truly strong fellows are all training bitterly during this period of time. Otherwise, from the grand manner in which you built your fighting stage, you would definitely have had some fellows that are difficult to deal with go to tear down your stage." Lin Yan was unconcerned about Xiao Yan's silence as he patted the latter's back and spoke. Although Lin Yan had been training within the 'Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower' during this period of time, he still heard some rumors about what happened.

"Ai, I'm indeed a little lucky. However, I was only thinking of putting an end to the unceasing number of challengers. After all, I also need to train,

right?” Xiao Yan laughed softly.

“Your position is indeed quite troublesome. I have stayed in this position for a year, but have not even received a single challenge.” Lin Yan smiled and spoke in a somewhat gloating manner.

Xiao Yan helplessly shook his head. He raised it and swept his gaze once across the resting area. Perhaps it was because Lin Yan had shouted at him earlier but there were quite a number of gazes that were looking at him with a little less surprise. It appeared that they may not be very familiar with Xiao Yan’s appearance, but they were unfamiliar with this name.

Although there was a little surprise, Xiao Yan ended up feeling that there seemed to be quite a number of people who seemed interested in his appearance.

“The people here are all those people difficult to deal with that I have told you about. You should quietly be a little more careful. You can call me if there is anyone who comes and finds trouble with you. I have also been training here during this period of time and have not fought with anyone for a long time. My bones are itching every day. It would not be bad if I am able to warm up just before the ‘Grand Competition’.” Lin Yan’s gaze looked all around him. He quietly increased his volume and basically allowed everyone present to hear his words.

The lips of some people twitched slightly at Lin Yan’s words. However, the little interest that had appeared in their eyes for Xiao Yan withdrew a little. No matter how one put it, Lin Yan was a top expert ranked in the top ten of the ‘Strong Ranking’. There were hardly any people who dared to offend him even in this sixth level.

“Thank you very much.” Xiao Yan patted Lin Xiao’s back gently. He appeared to have understood the latter’s actions very clearly and immediately let out a soft smile of gratitude as he spoke.

“Hee hee, if your bones are itchy, you can go and find big brother Liu Qing to play. He is also coincidentally training here.” Lin Yan carelessly waved his hands and was about to speak when a somewhat dark and

gentle male's voice suddenly sounded in the area. Lin Yan's face sunk a little as he turned his head and threw his eyes toward a certain spot of the resting area. He said with a cold smile, "I wondered who it was. It is actually 'Beauty' Yao. Don't keep using Liu Qing to talk about things everyday. If I were to meet him in the Grand Competition, I, Lin Yan, will just strike without caring. If you have the guts, you can come and play by yourself. I will accompany you anytime."

Xiao Yan's gaze followed Lin Yan's sight and looked over, only to see three human figures slowly appearing. The first was a man with pale-red robes who had a somewhat female-like face. His brows carried a few hints of femininity. Moreover, the faces of these people had become much darker and solemn at this moment due to Lin Yan's words.

"This fellow is called Yao Sheng. He is from Lin Qing's gang. He has some feelings for Liu Fei. Last time around, he had wanted to come and find trouble with you after hearing the conflict between you and Liu Fei. However, he was temporarily stopped by Liu Qing. Don't underestimate this fellow. Although he looks somewhat like a sissy, his strength is quite great, ranking seventeenth on the 'Strong Ranking'. His strength is even stronger than Bai Cheng. Now, I think that he should be around a seven star Dou Ling." Lin Yan tilted his head and spoke with a smile to Xiao Yan.

Xiao Yan nodded slightly. By being able to be ranked seventeenth on the 'Strong Ranking', people had sufficient cause to not underestimate this man who spoke in a somewhat feminine manner. From the looks of his words earlier, it was clear that he could not be considered as friendly toward him. It was likely that most of his feelings were that of enmity. However, Xiao Yan was not too worried because of this. Although the other party was strong, he did not cause Xiao Yan to feel even a little afraid. If he really wanted to spar and fight, the former could just attack directly. A seven star Dou Ling was insufficient to cause Xiao Yan to be badly battered given the latter's current ability and triumph cards.

"You can be arrogant now. Big brother Liu Qing will get you to shut your noisy mouth in the Grand Competition." Yao Sheng, who had the greatest hatred toward people who ridiculed him as a beauty, spoke in a dark voice

while wearing a green face. His dark and cold gaze immediately turned to Xiao Yan beside Liu Qing as he coldly said, “Don’t think that it is sufficient for you to dominate the Inner Academy by defeating some unqualified chickens and dogs. If not for big brother Liu Qing asking us to not cause unnecessary trouble during this period of time, it is likely that you would lose all your face in front of all the students in the academy. How can you act in such a grand fashion?”

Xiao Yan spread his hands and smiled as he said, “If you think you have the ability, you can come and issue a challenge anytime. Being noisy now does not explain the gold content of this seventeenth rank on the ‘Strong Ranking’.”

“Ha ha, well said. Afraid my foot.” Lin Yan laughed out loud by the side.

Yao Sheng’s eyes gradually became darker and colder. His expression had also become uglier after being publicly provoked by a new student who had entered the ‘Strong Ranking’ for less than a couple of dozen days. His gaze was like a poisonous snake as it stared intently at Xiao Yan. He immediately took a slow step forward. A powerful aura abruptly surged out explosively and instantly swept the entire area.

“It’s just as well. I already promised Fei-er to properly teach you bastard a lesson a long time ago. Consider yourself unlucky that I have met you today.” Yao Sheng’s dark voice reverberated within the sixth level. The threads of killing intent that were contained within caused the surrounding fiery hot atmosphere to be quietly reduced a little.

The corner of Xiao Yan’s mouth was also lifted into a thick smile. He took a heavy step forward. Threads of tiny crack lines quietly spread out on the tough rock.

“I will accompany you!”

# Chapter 550: Initial Exchange

The spacious resting area had become a little quieter due to the ferocious aura that had suddenly erupted from the two people. Immediately, over ten human figures around them took a couple of steps back while wearing faces that showed that they were going to enjoy the show. Although one could raise one's training speed by cultivating in the tower, it was also extremely dull and boring. They were naturally extremely happy to watch such amusing activity now that someone had started a fight.

Lin Yan was also startled when he saw Xiao Yan who had directly received Yao Sheng's challenge. He was just about to stop the fight when he mused a moment. However, he did not speak. Although Xiao Yan's strength was only that of a two star Dou Ling on the surface, he clearly knew that this fellow's true fighting ability far exceeded this level. Hence, it was not an easy matter for Yao Sheng to defeat Xiao Yan even with the former's strength.

"It is also good for him to sense a little of the fighting strength of the top twenty in the 'Strong Ranking'." Lin Yan thought in his heart as he took a step back. He smiled as he spoke to Xiao Yan, "Send this sissy rolling and see if he still dares to make noise toward you."

Xiao Yan smiled and once again stepped forward. His hands shook and a large Heavy Xuan Ruler carried a sharp sound from the tearing of air as it appeared in his hands from out of nowhere.

Xiao Yan waved the heavy ruler and pointed it at Yao Cheng from a distance. The fighting intent in Xiao Yan's body surged without resting in this kind of situation, causing his Qi to rise repeatedly.

Under Xiao Yan's increasingly stronger aura, the faces of some of the people around revealed a faint shock as they quietly spoke in their hearts, "This fellow is indeed similar to what is said in the rumors. He has a powerful fighting strength that totally does not match the strength on the surface."

Yao Cheng eyed Xiao Yan's repeatedly climbing aura in a dense and cold manner. His hands rotated and an extremely rich dark-blue Dou Qi seeped out. Following the appearance of this dark-blue Dou Qi, threads of mist agglomerated around him. In merely a moment, a cluster of water barriers that carried threads of dark-black color appeared. They wrapped Yao Cheng within from top to bottom. Ripples repeatedly circulated on the surface of the water barrier, much like a moving body that was rotating unceasingly.

"Be a little careful. This is this fellow's forte, 'Secluded Whale Water Wall'. It specializes in dealing with a physically strong opponent like you. This fellow appears to understand you very well. His first attack is a skill that restrains you." Lin Yan lifted his brows and spoke loudly when he saw the dark-black water barrier that Yao Cheng had agglomerated and formed.

Xiao Yan was surprised when he heard this. He immediately nodded. It appeared that this fellow did indeed have quite a strong ability in order to become the seventeenth rank on the 'Strong Ranking'. However... the other party was a water affinity expert. Xiao Yan had never had the slightest bit of fear when faced with an opponent of this affinity.

The corner of Xiao Yan's mouth lifted with a coldness. Threads of extremely faint-green fire seedlings wrapped around the heavy ruler while being enfolded by Dou Qi. With the support of the 'Green Lotus Core Flame', an ordinary water affinity Dou Qi would merely be able to display seventy-percent to eighty-percent of its strength in front of him.

"What is the use even if you know about it?" Yao Sheng was not anxious despite having everything pointed out by Lin Yan. All the former did was speak with a dark, cold laugh.

"That may not be the case." Xiao Yan smiled and corrected. His feet abruptly landed on the ground and a slight sound of rolling thunder reverberated. His body turned into a blurry, black shadow in front of the numerous stunned gazes around him as he shot explosively toward Yao Cheng while moving like a ghost.

The dark coldness in Yao Cheng's eyes grew even denser as he narrowed them and watched the thunderbolt-like black line. Unceasing amounts of powerful Dou Qi swiftly flowed and moved within his body.

Two powerful auras grew increasingly strong within the arena. A ferocious collision instantly erupted within the area of this sixth level of the tower interior.

For Xiao Yan's speed, the distance of a couple dozens of meters merely took up the time to blink an eye. However, the people present were not ordinary people. Therefore, their eyes were able to firmly follow him despite his extremely fast speed.

"Chi!"

Xiao Yan's figure suddenly appeared in mid-air. He eyed Yao Cheng below and a ferociousness surfaced on his face. The strength of the heavy ruler in his hand soared explosively once again. In an instant, an ear-piercing sonic boom sharply sounded throughout the entire sixth level as the heavy ruler was swung down and took shape.

Sensing the strength of this hack by Xiao Yan, a seriousness also surfaced in the eyes of Yao Sheng, who had been feeling some disdain within his heart. Both of Yao Sheng's hands danced and threads of blackish moist Dou Qi swiftly surged out. Finally, they swiftly agglomerated into a water net above his head fed by unending layers of Dou Qi.

"Bang!"

The heavy ruler carried a large strength as it landed on the layers of the dense Dou Qi water net. Immediately, force fluctuations visible to the naked eye came rippling out like a water wave from the point of contact.

Xiao Yan's brows frowned slightly as the two collided. He could sense that the numerous threads of water forming a net that contained a strange adhesion force... Although its adhesion force was not weak, the strength of the heavy ruler had still destroyed nearly a hundred layers of the Dou Qi water net within a few minutes as though it was cutting through some weak and decayed things. However, the destruction rate may have been



fast, but the rate at which Yao Sheng agglomerated the water net was not slow either. His hands danced rapidly even revealing numerous afterimages. The water net swiftly regained shape under the dancing of the afterimages.

As the two erupted, the adhesion force that was on the dense Dou Qi water net completely solidified the heavy ruler in mid-air when the heavy ruler was merely half a foot from Yao Sheng's head. Although the heavy ruler was firmly halted, the force that was contained on it still passed through the space as it shook Yao Cheng's neat hair until it was spread all over the place.

Yao Sheng's head was shaken by the wind until he was dizzy for an instant. His face instantly became ugly. It was really unexpected that he was in a disadvantage after having just made contact. Although he was not injured, his appearance had become extremely miserable looking. How could he, who valued reputation greatly, endure this?

A low angry roar was emitted from Yao Sheng's throat. His right hand abruptly curled into a claw shape as treads of black-colored Dou Qi swiftly covered it. Finally, it cemented into an extremely sharp black-colored claw. The claw moved and the sharp nails cut through the air, tearing toward Xiao Yan, who was floating in the air in front of him.

Xiao Yan's hands held the Heavy Xuan Ruler tightly. The force in his body burst forth and he plucked it out from that sticky water net. His body rolled once in mid-air before his feet that were wrapped in green-colored Dou Qi viciously collided with Yao Sheng's claw hand.

"Bang!"

A low muffled sound appeared. The two swiftly pulled back under the repulsion of the force. A moment later, Yao Sheng violently stomped on the ground and stabilized his body just as Xiao Yan landed from the air. He glanced at Xiao Yan's feet in a dense cold manner and only let out a cold laugh when he saw the latter's shoe had been torn, forming a large hole.

The nearly instantaneous fight between the two was extremely

dangerous. Their attacks were heavy and should any single party be the least bit careless, that party would end up with serious injuries. This kind of exciting fight caused the surrounding audience to involuntarily nod their heads quietly despite all of them being strong. This Xiao Yan did indeed live up to his reputation. He did not actually end up in much of a disadvantaged when facing the seventeenth ranked Yao Sheng in such a fierce fight.

“This fellow’s water affinity Dou Qi actually possesses a tiny corrosive effect. It is really strange. If it were not for the ‘Heavenly Flame’ secretly resolving it, it is likely that I would have suffered quite a little disadvantage.” Xiao Yan gently shook his leg as he spoke with surprise in his heart. The instant that they made contact, he had clearly sensed that the other party’s Dou Qi possessed a kind of corrosive effect.

“Hei, Xiao Yan, not bad.” Lin Yan raised his thumb toward Xiao Yan. Even he could not find much problem with the fight earlier. Lin Yan also felt a little surprise that Xiao Yan was actually able to not lose in this kind of exchange. Although Yao Sheng was merely a seven star Dou Ling, an ordinary eight star Dou Ling would have difficulty defeating him due to his Dou Qi being a little strange. This performance of Xiao Yan had undoubtedly exceeded his expectations.

“This is only a warm up. What is there to be proud about?” Yao Sheng’s face darkened. His voice was as dark and cold as his Dou Qi, giving people a cold feeling.

Xiao Yan glanced indifferently at Yao Sheng. He did not say any nonsense. With a wave of his heavy ruler, his Dou Qi began to agglomerate once again.

“Humph! All of you STOP!”

However, just as Xiao Yan and Yao Sheng were about to begin fighting again, a cold snort suddenly sounded. Immediately, a human figure strangely appeared in the battleground. A sharp overbearing aura immediately surged out explosively in an overwhelming manner. Threads of crack lines swiftly spread out from under the feet of that figure, and

they extended all the way until the edge of the resting area before gradually slowing down.

The familiar sharp overbearing aura caused everyone present to immediately become aware of just who had arrived. A respect and seriousness immediately appeared in most people's eyes. Clearly, the person who had come did have sufficient weight even in the hearts of these people, who could be called the top experts of the Inner Academy.

Xiao Yan slowly withdrew the heavy ruler in his hand. His pupils narrowed as he eyed Liu Qing who had appeared in the battleground. His expression did not change even a little and he did not express any respectful or any other emotions.

"Big brother Liu Qing!" Yao Sheng immediately rejoiced when he saw Liu Qing appearing.

Liu Qing waved his hand and stopped Yao Sheng's voice. He glanced at Xiao Yan and Lin Yan as he said in an indifferent voice, "I have already said that we should prioritize training now. Any grudges can be settled in the Grand Competition!" Liu Qing stared deeply at Xiao Yan when his words reached the end. Clearly, he had a deep memory for the latter.

Yao Sheng opened his mouth when he heard this. He could only nod his head. His gaze was dark and cold as he turned to Xiao Yan. He said in a dense manner, "Consider yourself lucky this time. Hopefully, we will not meet in the Grand Competition. Otherwise, you will likely not be as lucky as you were today."

Xiao Yan rolled his eyes. He was too lazy to be bothered about such vicious words. All he did was merely throw his gaze toward Liu Qing. This fellow was his strongest opponent. Even with Xiao Yan's current strength, he did not have absolute confidence...

"Xiao Yan, you have really caused me to feel a great interest in you. Although my opponent is Lin Xiu Ya, I also hope that you will have the ability to squeeze in at that time. However, you should remember that life and death lies with fate in the Grand Competition. Although the Inner Academy has a rule that restricts one from using a killing move, one's fists

and legs don't have eyes." Liu Qing said indifferently. His voice faintly carried a warning.

Xiao Yan frowned. He was naturally able to understand the meaning behind Liu Qing's words. He was just about to speak when a tender voice suddenly sounded.

"Xiao Yan is someone I am protecting. Who dares to touch him?"

The tender voice was clear and moving. However, the moment the voice sounded, the expressions of everyone in the entire resting area, with the exception of Xiao Yan, drastically changed. They moved their gazes before eventually seeing a small human figure standing in the doorway of a training room.

# Chapter 551: No. 1 Training Room

A little girl who was wearing a white dress stood at the entrance of a training room while leaning against a wall. She glanced at everyone in the resting area. Although she appeared as though she posed no threat to either human or beast, the ferocity that was faintly contained within those pupils caused those people whose gazes met hers to feel cold sweat appear on their backs.

“Ke ke, it is actually Senior Zi Yan.” Liu Qing’s expression had also changed a little the moment that the little girl appeared. He appeared much better compared to the others as he immediately spoke with a smile toward Zi Yan. However, that address which he used gave one a strange feeling. Just think, a man who appeared like a huge gorilla was actually speaking to a little girl, who was merely the height of his waist, in such a respectful and frightened manner. It was likely that no one would think that this was an ordinary situation.

Zi Yan glanced at him before taking small steps as she walked into the area. As she walked in, the human crowd who was observing from around hurriedly stepped back. They were afraid of being the innocent party who ended up suffering while watching someone else’s affair.

Lin Yan stood beside Xiao Yan. His entire body immediately became uneasy when he saw that Zi Yan was actually walking toward them. He truly felt great fear for this frightening ‘Brute Force Queen’.

“Hey, who bullied you? Didn’t I tell you that you should find me if you face any trouble?” Zi Yan’s footsteps stopped beside Xiao Yan. She curled her lips toward Xiao Yan and said, “Tell me. I will help you vent your anger.” As she spoke, she even used her pair of large, intelligent, dark eyes to sweep around her. Those people who were stared at by her hurriedly shook their heads while feeling the skin on their heads become numb.

Yao Sheng’s face twitched a little as he stood beside Liu Qing. He quietly took a step back and hid half of his body behind Liu Qing. It was likely that no one would dare anger this little monster who frightened everyone

in the entire Inner Academy. He really did not expect that Xiao Yan would actually have such a relationship with the little monster who was the most difficult to get close to.

“It is merely a small conflict. I will settle it myself.” Xiao Yan smiled shook his head in front of the focus of everyone. Although he clearly knew that Zi Yan was an extremely powerful Magical Beast, he was ultimately unable to handle the thought of using her name to swagger about because of this little girl’s appearance. Moreover, it had not really reached the stage of so-called bully. Both parties had suffered a little in his exchange with Yao Sheng earlier. It could only be said that it was a draw.

Liu Qing’s expression became a little more relaxed when he heard Xiao Yan’s words. If Xiao Yan were to speak Yao Sheng’s name, it was likely that Zi Yan would immediately pull the latter out for a beating given her character. At that time, it was likely that he would have no choice but to act in order to protect Yao Sheng. Although he was not afraid of Lin Xiuya in this Inner Academy, he could not help but have a heart filled with fear when faced with this little monster. Having conflict a with her was something that Liu Qing really did not want to experience.

Zi Yan frowned when she heard this. She turned around and stared at Xiao Yan with large eyes. She used a voice that only the two of them could hear and said, “Hmph, don’t think that you can stop refining Danwans for me in the future by not allowing me to help.”

Xiao Yan was neither able to laugh nor cry as he shook his head. This little fellow thought that the reason Xiao Yan rejected her help was actually because he wanted to avoid the responsibility of helping her refine Danwan. She was indeed a cute little girl...

“You can rest assured that I will not go back on my promise to you. All you need to do is to bring the medicinal ingredient and come find me after you have finished eating the Danwans.” Xiao Yan smiled and rubbed Zi Yan’s head. Suddenly, he felt that the surrounding gazes were a little strange. He raised his head slightly, only to see that the surrounding people were using an extremely stunned gaze to look at him... that hand of his which was rubbing Zi Yan’s head.

“Send that fellow flying with a slap.” A soft muttering sound spread among the human crowd. Zi Yan’s fierce name was something that was extremely feared among these experts on the ‘Strong Ranking’. Back then, there was no shortage of strong and bold people who issued challenges toward her. However, each and every single one of them were violently sent flying like a ball under those delicate and small hands. Finally, they ended up with their bones broken and their tendons injured. Although they fully recovered from their injuries, that kind of frightening scene was enough to cause them to remember it for the rest of their lives. Hence, some people involuntarily felt gloated when they saw that the current Xiao Yan actually dared to treat Zi Yan in this manner.

Of course, their anticipated event of being sent flying was something that was naturally impossible to occur to Xiao Yan. Zi Yan merely shook her head in a displeased manner and slapped Xiao Yan’s hand. Her rebuking words caused the faces of everyone around to twitch. Since when did this ‘Brute Force Queen’ become this easy to talk to?

Xiao Yan rubbing hand also stopped with some embarrassment after becoming the focus of so many eyes. He immediately withdrew it in an awkward manner.

Liu Qing let out a dry cough. Since Zi Yan had appeared, it was naturally impossible for him to issue any more warnings. From the looks of the actions between Xiao Yan and Zi Yan, it appeared that the relationship between the two was not bad. He did not doubt that if he were to repeat the words he spoke earlier, that ‘Brute Force Queen’ would charge over and punch him.

“Alright, the matter today shall end here. Any grudges can be settled in the Grand Competition. That is the most impartial place.” Liu Qing clapped his hand as he said faintly. Once he did so, he looked at Xiao Yan again before waving his hand, bringing Yao Sheng and the others as he turned around and left this resting place.

The surrounding audience also shrugged their shoulders when they saw Liu Qing leave things alone. After which, they began to slowly spread out and leave.

“Hei, I’m telling you that you should have directly said it was that sissy. With this monster helping you, why would you need to be afraid of Liu Qing?” Lin Yan’s finger gently poked on Xiao Yan’s back as he spoke softly when he saw Liu Qing and the others leave.

Xiao Yan smiled and shook his head. He did not continue to be entangled in this topic. After lazily stretching his waist, he said, “All of the training rooms here can be used, right? Are there any restrictions?”

“Of course there are.” Lin Yan rolled his eyes and said, “This sixth level doesn’t have the so-called differentiation between high, middle, and low. Basically, all of it is prepared for the experts on the ‘Strong Ranking’. However, whether the inside of the training room is good or bad is determined by your ranking on the ‘Strong Ranking’.”

“You are currently ranked 31st on the ‘Strong Ranking’. Therefore, your designated training room is there.” Lin Yan turned around and pointed at a corner not far away. That place had a training room that was standing alone. This training room may have been much more exquisite when compared to the training room a couple of levels above, but down here, it merely appeared simple when compared to those training rooms on the other side of the resting area.

“There is a number on the door of the training room. This number represent your rank on the ‘Strong Ranking’. The further in front that a training room is ranked, the better its effect. Currently, I am using the no. 9 training room. Hee hee, training at that place would have a speed that is at least twice as fast as your no. 31 training room.” Lin Yan laughed. His laughter contained a gloating tone to it.

Xiao Yan nodded slightly. He ignored the gloating Lin Yan as he turned around and walked toward his training room.

“Hey, do you want to train here?” Xiao Yan had just turned around when Zi Yan’s voice sounded.

“Yes.”

“In that case, you can go to my training room. It is no. 1. Its training speed is at least two to three times faster than no. 9.” Zi Yan’s tender voice



caused the smile on Lin Yan's face to instantly stiffen. Immediately, his face was filled with envy as he eyed Xiao Yan. The no. 1 training room. This was the training room that was dedicated for this little monster's use. The fellows in the top 20 of the 'Strong Ranking' had coveted it for an unknown time, but ultimately none of them dared to issue a challenge. Hence, they could only be envious. It was really expected that Zi Yan would actually lend her training room to Xiao Yan today. This kind of treatment was something that even Liu Qing, Lin Xiuya, and the others had never enjoyed.

"One can lend one's training room to another person?" Xiao Yan's face was filled with surprise as he spoke.

Lin Yan spread his hands and spoke helplessly, "The Inner Academy would not interfere with whom the training room is loaned to as long as the owner is willing."

Xiao Yan mused a little after hearing this before nodding with a smile. He spoke to Zi Yan, "Alright. I shall borrow your glory and enjoy the swift training speed of the no. 1 training room." There was merely twenty days from now to the Grand Competition. Raising his own strength quickly was the most important thing for Xiao Yan at this moment. He would appear to be a little spoiled if he were to reject her again.

A smile was immediately raised on Zi Yan's face when she heard Xiao Yan's reply. She softly said, "However, I will come and look for you to help me refine Danwan while you are training."

"Yes." Xiao Yan smiled. He would naturally not reject such a small matter.

"Follow me." Zi Yan was even happier when she saw Xiao Yan agreeing in such a decisive manner. She hurriedly led the way. Behind her, Xiao Yan shrugged his shoulders toward the envious face of Lin Yan before following her.

After passing through the resting area, another spacious training room immediately appeared in Xiao Yan's gaze. As he approached, he could even faintly feel the pure energy that was seeping out from these training

rooms.

Along the way, Xiao Yan did indeed see numbers on the doors of some of the training rooms as Lin Yan had mentioned. Starting from the number 20, the warm energy that seeped out of the training rooms grew increasingly powerful the further one moved forward. When they had walked to the rooms that were within the first ten, Xiao Yan was even able to see threads of pale-red energy drifting like filaments through the air with his naked eye. This kind of strange scene caused Xiao Yan to be unceasingly amazed.

Xiao Yan's footsteps stopped outside of a spacious training room in the deepest area. This training room was a little strange. Other training rooms would have powerful energy overflowing out. This place, however, was completely empty. Xiao Yan could not even sense the existence of even the slightest bit of energy within it as he stood outside.

"There is no need to continue sensing. This no. 1 training room is unique. The energy within it is far too powerful. An ordinary material would explode because of it. Therefore, only this special material that can completely stop the energy from spilling out can be used." Zi Yan waved her hand toward Xiao Yan. After which, she pointed at a dark-black metal door at the end of the corridor and said, "Don't go there. People are prohibited from entering that place. Even I have to be sent to solitary confinement if an Elder was to discover me entering. Therefore, you should be a little careful."

Xiao Yan's gaze followed Zi Yan's hand as he looked over. Behind the dark-black metal door was an ink-like darkness that did not disappear. He frowned slightly and was just about to turn his head when his hand abruptly trembled. At that instant, he clearly sensed the 'Green Lotus Core Flame' within his body trembling slightly...

There was only one thing within this 'Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower' that would be able to cause the 'Green Lotus Core Flame' to have such an activity. The 'Fallen Heart Flame'!

Xiao Yan slowly inhaled a breath of hot air. He looked deeply at the

black metal door before immediately and forcefully turning his head around. After which, he pushed open the door of the highest grade no. 1 training room on the sixth level..

# Chapter 552: The Violent Activity Within the Tower

The door was pushed opened. Immediately, a pale-red powerful light suddenly surged out, causing Xiao Yan to shut his eyes as a reflex. He only slowly opened them a long while later and eyed the scene in the room. The amazement on his face grew even denser.

The spacious interior of the training room had basically been covered by a layer of thick pale-red fog. One could merely see a spot two to three meters in front of him. Wherever one's gaze was directed to the area ahead was covered by that rich dense pale-redness.

Xiao Yan's face carried amazement as he stepped into the training room. His hand grabbed at the drifting pale-red fog in an illusionary manner. Immediately, a warm feeling was transmitted from his hand. A thread of pale-red fog moved along his opened pores and entered Xiao Yan's body, turning into threads of pure energy that automatically flowed within his veins.

"What powerful energy!" Surprise flashed across Xiao Yan's eyes. He inhaled a deep breath of cold air. It was a long while later before he finally spoke in a soft voice. The degree of richness of the energy present in this place was at least more than ten times greater than that of a high grade training room in the fifth level! Xiao Yan did not have the slightest doubt that he would truly be able to feel a flying feeling if he trained here.

"Hmph, of course. Otherwise, those fellows would not look at this place with such envious eyes." Zi Yan arrogantly raised her small chest behind him as she spoke.

Xiao Yan nodded joyfully. He slowly stepped into the room and his body passed through the pale-red fog. A moment later, he saw a pale-black rock platform, that was similar to the other training rooms, in the middle of this training room. In front of the rock platform was a small notch. It appeared that training in this place similarly required the deduction of 'Fire Energy'.

“This is the training place. You have your own ‘Fire Crystal Card’, right? Oh that’s right, I forgot to tell you. This no. 1 training room may be better than the other training rooms, but it also requires quite a lot of ‘Fire Energy’. It appears that training here for one day requires the deduction of 30 days of ‘Fire Energy’.” Zi Yan swung her ponytail as she revealed two canine teeth while she spoke with a smile.

“30 days of ‘Fire Energy’...” Such a huge training fee was something that caused even the wealthy and confident Xiao Yan to involuntarily exhale cold air from between his teeth. If one was to count in this manner, it appeared that one would nearly require a 1000 days of ‘Fire Energy’ in order to train here for one month? Heavens... Xiao Yan would definitely not be able to train here were it not for him relying on the sale of medicinal pills to earn ‘Fire Energy’ even if he was beaten to death given such a great ‘Fire Energy’ deduction burden. This amount of ‘Fire Energy’ was something that most ordinary students would not be able to spend in an entire year.

“Don’t tell me that you don’t have ‘Fire Energy’. I have no other solution if that is the case.” Zi Yan hurriedly spoke when she saw Xiao Yan’s manner. She did not know of any methods to earn ‘Fire Energy’. Therefore, she could only use the ‘Fire Energy’ that she obtained from the Inner Academy every month to maintain her training. Even though the first on the ‘Strong Ranking’ was able to obtain quite a lot of ‘Fire Energy’ every month, it was merely just sufficient for her to train in this place. She did not have any method if she was asked to sponsor someone else.

“You need not worry about this.” Xiao Yan shook his head helplessly. After which, he slowly sat down cross-legged and spoke to Zi Yan, “After this, I will begin to train. You should not come and disturb me during this training period. If you want to look for me to refine Danwan, you can wait at the side for me to wake up. You must not suddenly wake me from my training condition. Otherwise... you can continue to eat those raw medicinal ingredients in the future.”

Xiao Yan’s threat clearly had an extremely great effect on Zi Yan. Therefore, the latter’s head immediately nodded like a chicken feeding on

grains. That manner was such that she had nearly raised her hand to swear.

Xiao Yan relaxed and smiled when he saw this action of Zi Yan. He took out a 'Fire Crystal Card' from his storage ring and gently inserted it into the notch. After which, his hands immediately began to slowly form the training seal while his eyes were shut quietly...

Zi Yan tooted with her mouth when she saw Xiao Yan entered into his training state. She threw Xiao Yan a grimace before walking out of the training room in an extremely displeased manner. After which, she flipped her hand and closed the door.

The 'Fire Energy' that the no. 1 training room deducted may be called a sky-high price, but it must be said that its effects could indeed match this kind of sky-high price. This was the thought that appeared in Xiao Yan's heart when he saw the cluster of extremely rich 'Heart Flame' that appeared within his body.

The 'Heart Flame' formed while training on the top few levels could be called a thread or a wisp. The 'Heart Flame' in this no. 1 training room had appeared in the form of cluster after cluster. Moreover, the heat within was also a couple of times stronger than the former. Under this kind of powerful 'Heart Flame', the speed at which Dou Qi was being refined was so quick that even Xiao Yan was quietly speechless.

A large cluster of invisible 'Heart Flame' curled and rose near his heart. Wave after wave of powerful Dou Qi unceasingly followed the Qi Paths and circulated. After which, it was poured in... following the appearance of this Dou Qi once again, it had already become a line that was as thick as a thumb and appeared crystal clear, much like an emerald-colored crystal line.

Although the rate of increase of his Dou Qi had increased more than ten times under the refinement of this powerful invisible 'Heart Flame', the Qi Paths in Xiao Yan's body frequently emitted waves of piercing pain due to the hot temperature. Moreover, this was the result after Xiao Yan's body had already undergone strengthening by the 'Core Quenching Body Milk'.

If it had been his body before it had been strengthened, given Xiao Yan's current strength such a ferocious 'Heart Flame' would likely cause the interior of his body to roll about in an overwhelming manner the moment it appeared.

Although Xiao Yan was extremely unwell due to the feeling of piercing pain, it did not delay him by even a little. The thought of his mind still pushed the Dou Qi to repeatedly surge out from the sea urchin Dou Crystal that had seven long thorns.

Currently, the urchin Dou Crystal in his body had been reduced from the initial nine long thorns to seven of them. After becoming familiar with the Dou Ling class during this period of time, Xiao Yan slightly understood some of its secrets. It appeared that each time his strength advanced once, a long energy thorn would shrink back into the sea urchin Dou Crystal. According to this guess, it was likely that Xiao Yan would be truly able to reach the Dou Wang class when he had absorbed all of the seven remaining energy thorns into that sea urchin Dou Crystal!

Xiao Yan felt extremely astounded by this special measurement method of the Dou Ling class. This had caused him to have a clearer understanding of his own strength. This was undoubtedly much clearer than the vague feeling of the Da Dou Shi class.

With the help of that wild and violent 'Heart Flame' from the no. 1 training room, Xiao Yan was able to vaguely sense that the seventh long energy thorn within his sea urchin Dou Crystal was gradually becoming shorter at an extremely slow speed. The moment it completely shrank into the Dou Crystal, it would represent that Xiao Yan had reached the three star Dou Ling level.

There was no sense of time when one was training. This was especially in such cases when one could clearly sense the Dou Qi in one's body becoming more powerful and purer by the day. One would not have the slightest feeling of time that was flowing by in the outside world.

A full five days had passed since Xiao Yan had entered the no. 1 training room. Zi Yan had come once during the five days. She waited for a long

time when she saw Xiao Yan's training condition. Until the end, she did not dare to forcefully wake Xiao Yan up. She was really afraid that Xiao Yan would cease refining Danwans for her in his anger. In that case, it was likely that she would have to return to the miserable life of eating raw medicinal ingredients.

The benefits that these five days had toward Xiao Yan were naturally something that one would know even without saying. Not only did his aura become increasingly dense, but the Dou Qi in his body had also become much more polished. The seventh energy thorn on the sea urchin Dou Crystal had already shrunk by nearly half. From this, it was sufficient to see the achievement of Xiao Yan's training during these five days. If he was placed in a normal situation, it was likely that Xiao Yan would not have such an effect even if he trained for a full month.

Xiao Yan finally withdrew from his training condition after training to the seventh day. Coincidentally, he met Zi Yan who had been waiting in this place for half a day. He began to smile somewhat embarrassed when he saw the unhappy manner of the little girl before hurriedly to receive the medicinal ingredients from her hand. He immediately helped her refine a batch of Danwan. Only then did Zi Yan's expression become slightly better.

The seven days of training were enough to catch up with nearly a month of training. The powerful flood like surging waves of Dou Qi within his body caused Xiao Yan's entire body to be filled with the feeling of strength. This no. 1 training room was indeed far from what an ordinary training room could compare with.

Xiao Yan finished refining Zi Yan's Danwan before eating some simple things. He got up and moved his bones a little, but did not have the intention of exiting the room. He rested in this manner for over an hour before he once again returned to the rock platform, sat cross-legged and trained under Zi Yan's eyes, which appeared to be a gaze that one used when looking at an insane person.

"You lunatic. Who trains in this manner..." Zi Yan muttered before helplessly shaking her head. She could only exit the training room once



again.

Xiao Yan's plan when entering the 'Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower' was to undertake a retreat all the way until the start of the 'Strong Ranking'. He was pressed for time and naturally did not dare to neglect his training. If everything was normal, he would be able to train until the time as he wanted to. However, just as Xiao Yan's training retreat reached its fifteenth day, a special unexpected occurrence appeared in the calm 'Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower'...

The atmosphere was quiet in the no. 1 training room. Xiao Yan was seated cross-legged in the middle. Threads of pale-red fog were unceasingly pouring into Xiao Yan's body as they followed his breathing. Eventually, they transformed into rich energy that flowed within his Qi Paths.

"Bang!"

A somewhat low and muffled sound suddenly sounded within the training room. Following the emission of the muffled sound, it appeared that the entire training room trembled gently. Quickly following this, the originally calm energy within the training room suddenly rolled intensely like boiling water.

It was naturally impossible for Xiao Yan to continue to maintain his training condition given this activity. His tightly shut eyes abruptly opened as his face looked at the activity within the training room in a shocked manner. A moment later, his expression changed abruptly as he let out a shocked involuntarily cry, "Why has the energy within the interior of the tower become so much more wild and violent?"

"All students within the tower. Leave the 'Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower' within the next ten minutes!"

An elderly voice suddenly reverberated throughout the interior of the entire tower while Xiao Yan was shocked. Finally, it rested beside everyone's ears and did not disappear for a long while.

"Something has happened within the tower..." A thought swiftly flashed across Xiao Yan's heart at this instance.

# Chapter 553: The Pre-Uprising of the Fallen Heart Flame

Xiao Yan was slightly startled when he heard the old voice that resounded next to his ear. He immediately sat up on the stone platform and swiftly retrieved his Fire Crystal Card from within the notch. He muttered with shock within his heart, "What happened?"

"The energy within the tower has become much more wild and violent. I think this should be due to the 'Fallen Heart Flame'." Yao Lao's voice carried a little surprise as it sounded within Xiao Yan's heart.

"Fallen Heart Flame?" Xiao Yan was immediately stunned when he heard this. He spoke in his heart while being surprised, "Didn't you say that there was still at least another couple of months? Don't tell me that the uprising has been accelerated?"

"From the looks of the situation, it has not completely erupted yet. It should be some slightly larger writhing of the 'Fallen Heart Flame'." Yao Lao smiled and said, "However, from the looks of this churning, it confirms that what I said was correct. At the very most half a year or at the very least two to three months from now, the 'Fallen Heart Flame' within this 'Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower' will rise up completely. At that time, our chance to snatch the 'Fallen Heart Flame' might come."

Xiao Yan nodded slightly. His heart had also quietly become a lot hotter. However, this was not the time to be thinking about this. Currently, the violent and wild energy within the tower was no longer suitable for training. Therefore, he should leave quickly. Otherwise, it would really leave one speechless if he ended up being dragged into some other unexpected event that might occur.

Xiao Yan leaped down from the stone platform and swiftly rushed out of the no. 1 training room. The moment he left the room, an irritable hot energy came pouncing toward him, causing Xiao Yan's face to feel a kind of fiery pain.

The corridor was a little chaotic at this moment. The door of some training rooms were being repeatedly opened and one by one, students with faces that were at a loss immediately squeezed out. They looked at one another as they knit their brows tightly together. This was the first time that they had encountered such a situation.

“Hey, Xiao Yan, are you alright?” The no. 9 training room that was not far away was also opened not long after Xiao Yan came out. Lin Yan sprang out in an agile monkey-like manner. His gaze looked all around him and he hurriedly shouted upon seeing Xiao Yan.

“I’m fine.” Xiao Yan smiled to Lin Yan by the side as he shook his head and said.

“I wonder what happened. This kind of situation has never occurred in the ‘Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower’ before.” Lin Yan rubbed his head and asked in a somewhat doubtful manner.

Xiao Yan shook his head slightly, only to suddenly turn it around. He threw his gaze toward the large dark-black metal door at the end of the corridor. At this moment, he sensed his ‘Green Lotus Core Flame’ rapidly rising within him. Wisps of green flame suddenly swarmed into Xiao Yan’s eyes. In an instant, his pair of dark-black eyes transformed into a pair of green fire eyes.

Xiao Yan felt a warm feeling overflowing his eyes the moment the green flame swarmed into them. Immediately, he was surprised to realize that the black darkness behind the metal door began to gradually disperse under his green fire eyes. Hence, all the activity in the deep darkness appeared within Xiao Yan’s sight.

That was a distorted space. Within that space, an invisible flame appeared like an elf that was wildly wiggling around. Suddenly, an extremely strange roar sounded. Quickly following this, that invisible flame appeared to be like a volcano erupting as it surged explosively and shot toward the top of the tower.

“Small Space Sealing Mirror, seal!”

Dozens of low and deep old voices sounded from within the black

darkness. Soon after this, a majestic, vast, powerful energy surfaced. Finally, it formed a colorful light curtain on the distorted space. The invisible flame collided heavily with the light curtain. The two of them collided intensely and powerful circular energy ripples, that were enough to convulse a Da Dou Shi to an instant death, began to swiftly spread out. Finally they smashed against the dark-black wall around them before slowly being annihilated and scattered.

The surface of the light curtain was like a water wave under the collision of the invisible flame. It was in repeated turmoil. It appeared to be nearly about to break, but ultimately did not truly turn into nothingness. In an instant, it actually managed to endure under that extremely frightening shapeless flame.

“You little fellows who don’t know the immensity of the heavens and earth. The First Elder has already told all of you to leave the tower immediately. Why are you still delaying?” Just as Xiao Yan’s eyes were utterly focused on the ferocious collisions between the two groups, a low cry suddenly sounded. This caused Xiao Yan’s eyes to become blurry. The green-colored flame in his eyes instantly withdrew, and the back of the metal door once again returned to darkness. No matter how one looked at it, that person would not be able to see the high level fight behind it.

“That invisible flame should be the original body of the ‘Fallen Heart Flame’, right? Its power is indeed frightening. If it is not blocked, it is likely that it would have destroyed this ‘Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower’... That light curtain should be something that the Elders in the tower formed together, right? It is really abnormally strong to actually be able to forcefully seal the eruption of a natural, unique object like the ‘Fallen Heart Flame’. Unfortunately, I cannot continue to watch the fight between the two parties. Otherwise, I would at least have a little baseline when I come into contact with the ‘Fallen Heart Flame’ in the future.” Xiao Yan sighed regretfully in his heart. He turned his head only to see an anxious faced Elder standing at the exit of the corridor, repeatedly shouting sternly at the students who were stopping at the exit of the corridor.

Lin Yan shrugged his shoulders when he heard the cry of that Elder. He

did not make any clever remarks as he pulled Xiao Yan's hand and hurriedly walked out. The energy within the tower was growing increasingly violent. He kept feeling a little uneasy as he stayed at that place.

Xiao Yan was a little unwilling as he took a last glance at the metal door. He could only follow Lin Yan and swiftly leave this 'Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower' which was experiencing increasingly greater activity.

Xiao Yan and the others followed the human flow and swarmed out of the 'Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower'. At this moment, the entrance to the tower was in a state where it was crowded with people. The complete body of black mass and noisy sounds caused Xiao Yan, who had just come out of the tower, to feel like his eardrum were bursting.

These people at the entrance were clearly those that had just run out of the tower. Therefore, they were discussing the change within the tower earlier in a somewhat panicked and uncertain manner. The first experience of such a change in the tower worried them enough to cause them to form a fear within their hearts.

Xiao Yan did not join these meaningless discussions. His gaze merely quietly watched the top of the large section that protruded out of the ground. Perhaps it was because the tower had some seals added to it, but the feeling of the violent and wild energy paled to an extent that it was difficult to sense. However, by relying on a certain connection between the 'Green Lotus Core Flame' and the 'Fallen Heart Flame', Xiao Yan was still able to sense that an extremely intense collision between sealing and uprising was currently progressing within the tower.

"I wonder if the Elders in the Inner Academy will be able to suppress the uprising of the 'Fallen Heart Flame' this time around. If it is possible, I would perhaps like some additional preparation time. If it is not possible... I'm afraid that I must act now. It is just that in such haste, my chances of success are likely not going to be high." Xiao Yan frowned intently. He naturally understood that he could only take the opportunity to act once the 'Fallen Heart Flame' broke through the 'Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower'. Otherwise, once this 'Fallen Heart Flame,' which possessed an

intelligent spirit, were to escape, it would definitely hide itself. Where would he go and look for it at that time?

“Relax. The uprising of the ‘Fallen Heart Flame’ this time around is not considered very strong. Moreover, these Elders within the Inner Academy are no ordinary people. With the First Elder taking charge, this ‘Fallen Heart Flame’ will have some difficulty breaking the seal.” Yao Lao smiled and comforted Xiao Yan’s tensed heart.

Xiao Yan only quietly sighed in relief when he heard Yao Lao speak.

“Let’s go. Xiao Yan, it is pointless to continue staying here. The Elders will resolve these matters.” Lin Yan by the side suddenly spoke. A layer of space seal was wrapped around the ‘Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower’. Naturally, he could no longer sense the intense exchange going on within it. Hence, he did not want to wait here for long.

Xiao Yan mused for a moment before immediately shaking his head. How could he leave now? Therefore, he randomly searched for an excuse and stalled for time.

Lin Yan could only helplessly smile and stare when he saw that Xiao Yan was unwilling to leave, “You can continue to stay if you want to. I will return first. Hee hee, remember, if we are to meet in a match when the ‘Strong Ranking’ Grand Competition begins four days later, you can forget about me holding back.”

Although Xiao Yan was currently anxious, he still mustered up a smile which he gave Lin Yan. After watching the latter’s back disappear within the crowd, Xiao Yan turned his head once again and placed all his attention on the ‘Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower’.

Following the flow of time, the number of people stopped outside the tower swiftly reduced. Not long later, the originally extremely crowded place had become empty. Only Xiao Yan alone was still standing on the top of a tree outside the tower. His eyes were shut as he sensed the intense exchange within the tower that left one stunned.

Although Xiao Yan was able to sense the energy movements within the tower by borrowing the help of the ‘Green Lotus Core Flame’, he was

unable to clearly see the collision between the two groups like he did in the tower earlier. Hence, after the deadlock continued until the sun had set, he was finally able to sense that the wild and violent energy within the tower had begun to gradually weaken.

“Looks like the Elders have obtained the upper hand.” Xiao Yan sensed the ‘Fallen Heart Flame’ that had once again become quiet. Only then did he let out a long sigh of relief. With the Inner Academy’s Elder dragging things out, he would be able to gain sufficient time to allow himself to be fully prepared.

Xiao Yan let out a soft laugh. He let down the huge stone that was in his heart. However, just as his body had turned around on the top of the tree, it suddenly stiffened. His gaze was stunned as he eyed a black-robed, old man suspended in the air not far in front of him.

TL: let down the huge stone that was in his heart – put down a great burden

The old man was wearing a black robe and had a white beard. His pupils were as cold as sharp blades. A mere sweep of his gaze across Xiao Yan caused the pores on the latter’s body to shrink tightly. The thing that caused Xiao Yan to be surprised was that this person was actually that old man who had arrived in the mountains after being disturbed by the ‘Ground Spirit Pill’ that Yao Lao had refined the last time!

Xiao Yan’s throat rolled a little. He used all his strength to suppress the emotional ripple within his heart. If his emotions were to fluctuate slightly in front of such a strong person, the latter would be able to sense it. Hence, it was a long while later before he cupped his hands together and asked, “This Elder, may I know why you are blocking this student?”

The black-robed old man glanced at Xiao Yan. There was an unknown meaning within those eyes. It was a long while later before he opened his mouth and said faintly.

“You should have seen and sensed the activity within the tower earlier, right?”

# Chapter 554: First Elder Su Qian

Xiao Yan's heart pounded immediately when he heard the question that the black-robed old man posed in front of him. His eyes rotated a little while a thought swiftly crossed his heart, "If I were to reply that I had really seen it, will this old man commit a kind of dirty deed such as killing a person to silence them in order to keep a secret?" After all the importance of this 'Fallen Heart Flame' to the Inner Academy was really too great. Hence, it was little wonder that Xiao Yan had such thoughts.

Xiao Yan's palm was filled with sweat while the atmosphere was tense and pressuring. The pressuring feeling that the black-robed old man in front of him gave was not in the least bit weaker than Yun Shan from the Misty Cloud Sect. With Xiao Yan's given strength, it was likely that the other party would subdue him with a random wave of his hand if one excluded the possibility of Yao Lao lending a hand.

Xiao Yan finally made his decision after thinking over it for a long while. He intended to not admit that he had seen the exchange within the tower no matter what.

However, at this moment, the black-robed old man in front of Xiao Yan suddenly opened his mouth indifferently, "You should be Xiao Yan, right? It is rumored that there is an extremely vague connection between 'Heavenly Flames'. I think that the reason that you are able to sense the unusual situation is likely due to the 'Heavenly Flame' within your body, right?"

The words of the black-robed old man immediately caused Xiao Yan to be shocked. However, he was immediately relieved. There were quite a number of Elders within the Inner Academy who knew that he possessed a 'Heavenly Flame'. However, what caused Xiao Yan to be surprised was that this old man actually managed to discern his situation. Moreover, these words of his undoubtedly also meant that he had long ago known that Xiao Yan had already sensed the activity within the tower. Xiao Yan quietly sighed in relief as he watched the old man's face which was still calm. Fortunately, he had not voiced his denial. Otherwise, other people



might think that he was feeling guilty.

“I have indeed sensed a little. However, there seems to be a layer of special seals on the ‘Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower’. That feeling appears to have become extremely vague outside the tower.” Xiao Yan carefully replied.

“You need not be worried. I do not have any intention of condemning you of any wrongdoing.” The eyes of the black-robed old man were filled with a faint smile as he appeared to have sensed the anxiety in Xiao Yan’s heart. He waved his hand and said, “However, I want to remind you that you should not tell others about the matter within the tower.”

“The matter within the tower will not reach a second person’s ear.” Xiao Yan hurriedly guaranteed.

“I am quite familiar with you. It is just that I have not had the opportunity to meet you. You are really a source of envy by being able to control a ‘Heavenly Flame’ at such an age.” The black-robed old man laughed. The envy in his words was not false. The ‘Fallen Heart Flame’ was able to allow the Inner Academy to possess a kind of talent grooming equipment like the ‘Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower’. Yet the young man in front of him actually possessed a kind of ‘Heavenly Flame’ by himself. How could this not let one sigh?

Xiao Yan let out a dry laugh, but did not say anything else related to this topic. He cupped his hands and respectfully said, “May I know Elder’s name?” Most of the Elders within this Inner Academy had strengths that were around the Dou Wang class. The strength of the old man in front of him had clearly far exceeded them. According to Xiao Yan’s guess, if he was not the headmaster of the Inner Academy, who ultimately never revealed his face, he would perhaps be that mysterious First Elder...

“I am Su Qian, the chief among the Elders. Normally they address me as First Elder.” The black-robed old man mentioned casually.

“As expected...” Xiao Yan muttered in his heart. Although he had already expected this, his face still could not help but move a little.

“Little friend Xiao Yan, you may perhaps be able to sense some unusual

changes in the tower. I will honestly tell you that there is indeed quite some trouble brewing inside. We are currently still able to temporarily suppress it. However, this is not a long term solution. Hence, the old me hopes that little friend will lend the Inner Academy a hand in the future.” Su Qian’s face was suddenly serious as he spoke to Xiao Yan in a deep voice.

“Even the strength of all the Elders are unable to achieve the result of suppressing it. I merely possess the strength of a small Dou Ling, what use would I be?” Xiao Yan’s face was immediately stunned. He muttered a reply when he heard these words from Elder Su Qian which actually intended for him to act.

“Ke ke, the you who possesses a ‘Heavenly Flame’ is someone that one cannot measure based on ordinary strength.” Su Qing laughed and immediately spoke, “You need not be afraid either. It is not yet certain whether we will let you act. It is just that I am searching for an additional path in the event the worst case scenario occurs in the future. At that time, I will naturally not force you if you are helpless to do anything.”

Xiao Yan could only smile bitterly and nod his head when Su Qian spoke in such a manner. He said, “Alright, I will do my best at that time.”

“Ke ke, These words of yours do indeed leave me assured.” Su Qian smiled when he saw Xiao Yan’s bitterly smiling face. He added, “The Inner Academy will not mistreat you if you are really able to suppress it. We will let you be satisfied with anything that you want, regardless of whether it is Qi Methods, Dou Techniques, medicinal formulas, etc.”

“I want the ‘Fallen Heart Flame’. Can you just give it to me?” Xiao Yan muttered in his heart. However, his face acted surprised as he hurriedly nodded his head.

“Currently the tower is starting to calm down, but there are many other efforts required to take care of the aftermath. I shall not continue to hold you here.” Su Qing smiled and said, “Additionally, there is still another four days to the ‘Strong Ranking’ Grand Competition. You should work harder. You gain quite the great benefits if you are able to enter the top

ten.”

“The top ten are all people at the peak of the Dou Ling class. How can I enter with my strength of someone who has just entered the Dou Ling class?” Xiao Yan smiled awkwardly and replied.

“You cunning little fellow. Don’t give me that confused look. I know very well just what your strength is like. Although there is quite some difficulty for you to beat Liu Qing and the others, other than Liu Qing, Lin Xiuya, Yan Hao, and a couple of countable people, I’m afraid that the remaining people would have difficulty contending with you in a true fight.” Su Qian shook his head and laughed with a clear voice, “Moreover, you may have indeed advanced to the Dou Ling class for less than two months, but during this short period of time you have leaped to the level of a three star Dou Ling. This speed is something that even leaves me somewhat stunned.”

Xiao Yan smiled in an embarrassed manner. His heart, however, was quietly shocked. It appeared that quite a bit of information about him was gathered in this old fellow’s hand. With the sharp eyes of the latter, it was likely that the foundation of Xiao Yan’s strength had already been more or less guessed by him. Otherwise, Su Qian would not say such words. Moreover, advancing to a three star Dou Ling was something that had happened two days ago when he was undertaking a retreat. It was unexpected that Su Qian was able to see his exact level with just one look.

“Little fellow, keeping a low profile may be a good thing, but you should not act foolish in front of people who know what is going on. This old me has been in the Inner Academy for many years. What kind of geniuses have I not seen?” Su Qian smiled when he saw Xiao Yan’s embarrassed manner. He waved his hand and said, “Alright, I also have other matters to do and shall not delay your time. Remember, you must enter into the top ten of the ‘Strong Ranking’, and... the agreement between us.”

The aged face revealed a smile toward Xiao Yan. Su Qian’s body that was suspended in mid-air suddenly began to gradually become paler in a strange manner. A moment later, he completely disappeared from the air just like a ghost. This kind of strange situation caused Xiao Yan’s skin to

feel a chill.

Xiao Yan let out a breath like he had set down a heavy burden a moment after Su Qian disappeared. He relaxed his tightly clenched hand. It was drenched in perspiration, causing him to once again let out a bitter smile. This old man had simply showed himself and randomly conversed with him. Yet, it caused Xiao Yan to act in this manner like he was facing a powerful opponent. The gap between the two of them was really like that of a cloud and mud.

“It is really unexpected that this person’s strength is actually this strong. From the looks of his aura, it is likely that even Yun Shan cannot be compared to him. He is indeed worthy of being the First Elder of the Inner Academy.” Xiao Yan let out a soft sigh as he muttered in his heart, “The First Elder is already this strong. I really don’t know just how terrifying the strength of the headmaster of the Inner Academy that no one can find. This Inner Academy is really a place with hidden dragons and tigers.”

Xiao Yan sighed in this manner within his heart as he leaped down from the top of the tree. After which, he rushed to ‘Pan’s Gate’ under the gradually darkening sky.

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The ‘Strong Ranking’ Grand Competition was the most intense and most eye-catching competition for the top experts of the entire Jia Nan Academy. The extremely harsh participation condition meant that almost all of the participants were the most outstanding people in the school. Each of them truly possessed an outstanding talent. The top ten of the ‘Strong Ranking’ in the previous generations had all managed to become well known on the Dou Qi continent. The most useless among them would at the very least dominate an area with the strength of a Dou Wang.

Although the conditions to enter the ‘Strong Ranking’ Grand Competition were extremely harsh, they did not hinder the other students in the Inner Academy from wildly pursuing it. Just think, the experts one would hardly be able to see were actually grouped together in one place. The fiery hot fight that unfolded on the stage gave one a carefree and

delightful feeling. This kind of situation had an attraction to the other students that did not lose to the crazed feeling of a man who had abstained for a couple of years and suddenly saw a naked beauty displayed in front of him.

Hence, during this period of time when the 'Strong Ranking' Grand Competition was approaching, the atmosphere within the Inner Academy had gradually soared. The topic of conversation everywhere circled around the Grand Competition. Moreover, as the time approached, the last thirty names on the 'Strong Ranking' repeatedly changed. Those fellows who usually tolerated and did not erupt had totally erupted at this moment. They wildly charged at the students on the 'Strong Ranking' who possessed a golden ticket to the competition.

However, no matter how the Inner Academy rolled and flipped, no one dared issue a challenge letter to Xiao Yan after the fights on the fighting stage the last time. Therefore, Xiao Yan was actually able to enjoy an extremely rare idle time during these final few days. This caused him, who was used to being pressed for time, to feel a little uneasy.

The four days slowly arrived under the anticipation of a countless number of people within the Inner Academy.

When the first ray of morning sunlight scattered down on the morning of the fourth day, an old 'gong' quietly sounded from the deep region of the Inner Academy and immediately spread throughout its entire boundary.

The instant the 'gong' sounded, numerous people with different appearances from different parts of the Inner Academy with extremely powerful auras, suddenly opened their tightly shut eyes. A glow that contained a fiery hot fighting intent swiftly soared under the old 'gong' sound!

A black-robed young man who was sitting cross-legged on a bed in a room gradually opened his dark-black eyes. He waved his hand and an enormous black shadow flashed and appeared. The enormous body of the ruler cut across the air and carried the whining rushing wind sound.

Finally, it was sheathed on his back in a slanted manner.

The black-robed, young man gently patted the heavy ruler on his back. He turned his head slightly and his gaze was thrown out of the window. He sensed powerful auras that suddenly rose all over the Inner Academy at this instant. The corner of his mouth was slowly lifted into a slight smile. A boiling hot fighting intent surged within him.

“I, Xiao Yan, shall reserve one spot among the top ten...”

# Chapter 555: Enemies Often Cross Each Other's Paths

The middle stadium that was in the largest area of the Inner Academy was usually not open to the public. It would only be open when the Inner Academy organized a competition. As the hottest 'Strong Ranking' Grand Competition, this would naturally be the place where the competition would be conducted.

Of course, the area where the stadium in the middle was located was extremely large. However, it was still filled by the countless numbers of black masses of human heads. At a glance, the bustling crowd carried a noisiness that spread all around. Finally, they converged together and rushed to the stands.

Of course, the large group Xiao Yan was with was somewhat stunned when they arrived and eyed the human wall that was squeezed very tightly. However, it was fortunate that the competitors had a special tunnel. Borrowing Xiao Yan's glory, Xun Er and the others avoided the trouble of having to be squeezed. They used the special tunnel that was guarded by the instructors and entered a high platform with quite a good view.

Xiao Yan stood on a high platform as his gaze swept below. They could see that the spacious arena was evenly divided into five platforms. Clearly, this should be the competition ground this time around.

Xiao Yan leaned on a guardrail. He looked down on the entire open ground from high above. Hearing the waves of noises that sounded from the ordinary viewing gallery below, the deep regions of his eyes became fiery hot. This competition basically represented the fight between the most outstanding students within the Inner Academy. The geniuses that had been gathered from all over the continent were extremely haughty people, who wanted to stand out in this Grand Competition. If one did not have some foundation, it was likely that one would only become other people's stepping stone.

“Ke ke, Xiao Yan ge-ge, this Grand Competition is of a much higher standard compared to the Outer Academy Qualifying Competition back then.” Xun Er stood by the side with her hand holding the guardrail. Her lovely body was wrapped in green clothes and revealed her nice curves. She turned her head toward Xiao Yan and smiled as she spoke to him.

Xiao Yan nodded. He stretched his waist lazily and randomly said, “This Inner Academy is originally the place where geniuses gather. There are naturally no ordinary people able to enter the top fifty in this pile of geniuses. Even I have to go all out in this Grand Competition. Otherwise, it will really be somewhat impossible to enter the top ten.”

“Xiao Yan ge-ge can definitely do it.” Xun Er gave a shallow smile. That elegant and beautiful face, however, was filled with an even richer confidence than even Xiao Yan himself felt.

“It is still not certain whether I can or cannot. However, even if a lion wants to fight a rabbit, it must use all its strength. Now that I am faced with a group of opponents that are around the same strength as me, I will naturally have to display all my tactics.” Xiao Yan smiled and glanced at Xun Er as he continued, “However, if you wanted to, it would not be too difficult for you to enter the ‘Strong Ranking’. If you display all your tactics, I’m afraid that you would be able to contend with Liu Qing and the others.”

Xun Er smiled without speaking. She had seldom revealed her true strength. However, if one were to look down on her because of this, it was likely that one would pay a hefty price. The mysteriousness of this girl and the degree of her hidden trump cards were something that even Xiao Yan could not compare with.

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“She has the strength, but refuses to participate. It is really a waste of opportunity.” Wu Hao smacked his mouth as he spoke with a somewhat painful heart. Giving up this opportunity to fight with these experts was definitely a hideous unforgivable crime in his eyes.

“I heard that you have also leaped into the ‘Strong Ranking’ two days



ago?” Xiao Yan glanced at Wu Hao. This fellow’s strength may stop at the peak of the Da Dou Shi class. However, if he were to completely unleash his strength, Xiao Yan understood that it would not be possible for Wu Hao to be easily defeated even if the opponent was an ordinary one or two star Dou Ling.

“He he, 41st. It is a full ten places below you. Hopefully, we will not meet right at the start of the Grand Competition.” Wu Hao laughed and spoke. He revealed some pride on his face. He had entered the ‘Strong Ranking’ after having only entered the Inner Academy half a year ago. Although this rank was not considered high on the ‘Strong Ranking’, such an achievement could already be considered very outstanding. Of course, there was still some gap when he was compared with Xiao Yan. However, Wu Hao himself was already extremely satisfied. After all, he was the only one who knew just how much effort and perspiration he had put in to obtain this rank.

Xiao Yan nodded slightly. His heart was also a little surprised. This fellow’s talent was indeed extraordinary. If he didn’t have the ‘Skyfire Three Mysterious Change’ and the help of various medicinal pills, it was likely that the achievements he would have currently achieved would not be much higher than Wu Hao.

Xiao Yan continued to converse with Wu Hao for awhile. He did not continue being entangled on this topic. Turning his head around, his gaze swept all around him, only to discover that there were already quite a number of people had appeared on this high platform. The students who were able to enter this place were mostly the competitors of the Grand Competition. The others like Xun Er and the rest were incidentally brought up to this place by the competitors.

Xiao Yan’s turning gaze suddenly paused on an icy lady who had bright silver hair and a dress that matched it. He was slightly startled. His gaze moved a little and discovered Lin Xiuya, Yan Hao, and the others by Han Yue’s side. It appeared that they were inseparable ever since the few of them had looked for the ‘Core Quenching Body Milk’ in the deep mountains back then.

The gazes of Lin Xiuya and the others were returned when Xiao Yan discovered them. The few gazes looked at one another and smiled.

“Ke ke, Xiao Yan, I hope that we will not collide together at the start of the Grand Competition. It would really be a little embarrassing if that were to be the case.” With Lin Xiuya’s aura, his existence was basically that of a main character no matter where he was. Therefore, numerous gazes that contained various emotions shot over from the surroundings of the high platform turned toward Xiao Yan upon hearing the laughter.

“Senior Lin is the second on the strong ranking. Other than Zi Yan, the number of people who can contend with you can be counted on one hand. If we were to meet at the start of the competition, it can only be said that Xiao Yan is unlucky.” Xiao Yan laughed softly and replied.

“That may not be the case. I am also extremely fearful of that speed of yours.” Lin Xiuya appeared to give a faint unsmiling smile as he spoke. Having witnessed the frightening speed that Xiao Yan had displayed when he rescued Han Yue back then, he would naturally not underestimate this junior who kept a low profile and appeared to be harmless to both humans and animals.

Lin Xiuya did not lower his voice. Hence, some of the competitors around them were startled upon hearing it. Lin Xiuya had actually spoken in this manner despite his strength. Was the speed of this Xiao Yan really that frightening?

Xiao Yan ignored these surprised gazes around him. He smiled at Lin Xiuya and immediately ceased pausing on this topic.

“That’s right, we have made another trip to the deep mountains these few days.” Lin Xiuya suddenly opened his mouth and spoke after conversing with Xiao Yan for awhile.

Xiao Yan’s heart leaped without leaving a trace. His expression did not change as he smiled and asked, “Oh? Is that so? How is it? Did you get what you wish for?”

“What else can happen? That beast is currently becoming increasingly abnormal. It was still alright the last time. When we met this time, it had

unknowingly become crazy. It awoke its wild violent bloodline the moment we met. If it were not for the fact that we fled quickly, I'm afraid that we would not even be able to participate in this Grand Competition." Yan Hao by the side rolled his eyes and cursed with great dissatisfaction.

Xiao Yan heart quietly sighed in relief. On the surface, however, he comforted, "Just forget about it if you cannot obtain it. In any case, as long as you enter the top ten of the 'Strong Ranking', you will be able to enter the lowest level of the 'Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower' and receive that so called Essence Heart Flame to refine your body. At that time, I think that you will all be able to borrow its strength to step into the Dou Wang class."

Ugh, hopefully. The refinement of one's body by the 'Heart Flame' may be called a safe passage into the Dou Wang class. However, it does have quite the failure rate. It is good if it succeeds. If it ends up in failure... although my current distance to the Dou Wang level is merely just a step, this single step may be something that cannot be broken through even in five or ten years if there is no opportunity." Lin Xiuya helplessly shook his head as he spoke.

The Dou Wang class. The true class of the strong on the continent. Dou Ling could basically be found all over the continent. Only after truly advancing to a Dou Wang would one be able to separate themselves from the masses and enter the line-up of the strong on the continent.

Xiao Yan was extremely clear about this point. He similarly understood the gap between a Dou Ling and a Dou Wang. Therefore, he was unable to find any comforting words when he saw the anxiety of Lin Xiuya and the others. After all, there were quite a number of people on the continent who had been stopped for five to ten years without progressing...

"Ke ke, I am really a pessimistic person." Lin Xiuya laughed softly when he saw the atmosphere which had become gloomy. His slightly knit brows also became relaxed as he patted Xiao Yan's shoulders and said, "I heard that you have come into conflict with Liu Qing's group in the tower again? Hee hee. In that case, you should be a little careful. Liu Qing's group has quite a number of names on the strong ranking. You should be a little

cautious if you were to meet them in the competition. Although there is the rule that one is not allowed to take another person's life in this Grand Competition, the knives and swords don't have eyes..."

Xiao Yan smiled and was just about to nod when he suddenly sensed that the high platform had become much quieter than before. Immediately, he turned his head around after sensing something. His eyes instantly became slightly narrowed when his gaze swept across a large group of people entering from the entrance.

The group of people walked onto the tall platform. The people along the way began to move aside in an extremely tactful manner. The leader of the group was a simply dressed man. He had a strong build. His thick eyebrows were raised like swords and his masculine face which appeared naturally mighty carried a sharp aura.

This aura was basically something that almost no one in the Inner Academy did not recognize. Who else would it be but that Tyrant Spear Liu Qing?

Behind Liu Qing was Liu Fei, who had some conflict with Xiao Yan, and Yao Sheng. At this moment, the two of them had clearly noticed Xiao Yan and the others. Their resentful, dark, cold gazes were immediately thrown over at the same time.

Xiao Yan merely raised his brows slightly in the face of the gazes of these two people. He exchanged glances with Lin Xiuya, Yan Hao, and the others by the side and smiled slightly.

As Liu Qing walked straight toward Xiao Yan and Lin Xiuya, the voices on the tall platform gradually became much quieter. Numerous gazes were thrown toward both parties. These two groups appeared to represent the strongest two factions within the Inner Academy. Normally, they would avoid each other due to various reasons. Today, however, they actually collided face to face due to the imminent Grand Competition. It must be said... enemies often cross each other's paths.

# Chapter 556: Tit for Tat

Under the much more solidified atmosphere, Liu Qing and the rest slowly stopped in front of Xiao Yan's group. The former glanced at Xiao Yan, Liu Xiuya, and the rest before speaking indifferently, "We have finally met. I have waited for the arrival of this day for a long time."

Xiao Yan would naturally not foolishly reply to Liu Qing's words. Everyone in the Inner Academy knew that Liu Qing's opponent was Lin Xiuya. With the exception of Zi Yan, the little monster who rode over them, there was hardly anyone who had the qualification to be viewed seriously by Liu Qing. Even Yan Hao, who was ranked fourth still felt some fear deep in his heart despite usually not showing the slightest sign of being afraid of Liu Qing.

"Hopefully, your luck will be better this time around." Lin Xiuya returned the indifferent smile. Although his body size was basically one entire girth smaller than Liu Qing's, that special aura of his caused him to not have the slightest sign of being eclipsed in front of Liu Qing with his large frame.

Although the conversation between the two was simple, it was filled with a tit for a tat feeling that was difficult to hide. As long time rivals, these two people were compared with each other all the time. The fight back when Liu Qing was defeated by Lin Xiuya was because of a slight vulnerability. Therefore, he bore a grudge in his heart over this matter. However, he did not search for Lin Xiuya to compete with despite his strength having soared these couple of years. Back then, he had lost to Lin Xiuya on the 'Strong Ranking' Grand Competition. Now, he needed to obtain a victory in this place! One sharpens one's sword for ten years. For this match, Liu Qing had shook off an unknown amount of perspiration, endured the feeling of loneliness, and only tasted the bitterness of training...

The atmosphere on the high platform was extremely quiet as the two of them spoke. Although those who were able to arrive at this high platform were all strong people at the peak of the Inner Academy, the hearts of all

these proud people felt varying degrees of respect toward these two people whether they wanted to admit it or not. Strength was honored. This was a conventional rule that existed everywhere on the Dou Qi continent.

The two gazes intertwined in mid-air. There appeared to be essence-like sparks surfacing. The tense atmosphere was maintained between them. From the looks of this situation, it appeared that they would end up physically attacking each other the moment a disagreement arose.

Of course, Xiao Yan was not too worried about this. The two of them were not extremely impatient people. Although this Liu Qing looked extremely boorish, from the looks of how he was able to endure until today after being defeated by Lin Xiuya, one could see his disposition. Therefore, something that was similar to fighting on the spot would have difficulty occurring between these two extremely calm people.

Xiao Yan gaze moved randomly, only to suddenly see the green-faced Liu Fei behind Liu Qing. He lifted his brows, only to realize that her gaze was locked on Xun Er by the side. Clearly, that slap that Xun Er had given her in public had left her a deep memory.

Xun Er appeared to have felt nothing when faced with the vicious gaze of Liu Fei. A pair of pretty eyes paused on Xiao Yan's back. At this moment, a thread of faint golden-colored warm sunlight coincidentally scattered down, leaving behind a golden-colored glow on Xun Er's tender, exquisite, pretty face. Her long eyelashes shook under the sunlight. It was obscure, like an illusion. At this moment, this pretty scene was something that even Liu Fei, who had a good appearance, felt jealous about in her heart.

This pretty appearance was also absorbed into the eyes of Yao Sheng behind Liu Qing. His heart trembled slightly. Immediately, he felt a pain on his hand as a weak icy-cold voice was transmitted over, "Hmph. This is that girl who slapped back then. You must help me vent my anger if you want me to give you a chance!"

The skin on Yao Sheng's face twitched. His eyes changed rapidly for awhile before finally throwing his dark and cold gaze onto Xiao Yan.

Taking a slow step forward, he gave a superficial smile and said, "Xiao Yan, you should manage your woman properly. Otherwise, you might suffer a little more."

Yao Sheng's words were clearly targeted at Xiao Yan. Hence, the expressions of Wu Hao, Hu Jia, and the others behind Xiao Yan immediately changed after hearing this. Their gazes were looking at him furiously.

This provocative words that Yao Sheng had suddenly spoken also caused Liu Qing to frown slightly by the side. However, he did not say anything. He clearly understood that Yao Sheng was speaking out for the slap Liu Fei endured. As Liu Fei's older cousin brother, he was naturally unable to say anything.

Liu Qing gaze glanced at the calm face of Xun Er behind Xiao Yan. He appeared to have sensed something and his feet took a horizontal step to his left and once again protected Liu Fei behind him. He had witnessed Xun Er's ghost-like agility in the fighting arena back then. Hence, he did not dare to slight her too much now. He could perhaps say that he was caught off-guard if he allowed Liu Fei to be beaten once under his eyes. However, other people might form some doubts about his strength if this happened a second time.

Xiao Yan raised his eyelids. He eyed the dark, cold face of Yao Sheng and extended his hand to grab the delicate hand of Xun Er beside him. As he lifted his gaze to look at Yao Sheng, he said with a faint smile, "We are not allowed to fight here. I will help you get back at them when we meet in the competition." The smile had a coldness that was not hidden.

Xun Er's vaguely visible golden-colored glow was swiftly extinguished after being grabbed by Xiao Yan. She knit her eyebrows slightly, but did not say anything. All she did was take a step back as her intelligent eyes gently swept over Yao Sheng on the opposite side. Her slight smile also hid some icy coldness.

Seeing Xun Er withdraw, Liu Qing, whose Dou Qi was slowly flowing in his body, finally sighed in relief. However, his gaze was still focused on the

quiet Xun Er. With his experience the last time around, he did not know when the latter would once again erupt and beat someone up.

“You are right. We will get back everything once we meet on the competition. Otherwise, some new students might well really rise to the heavens.” Yao Sheng also darkly nodded under Xiao Yan’s ice-cold smile. There was a rich amount of hatred in him.

“Alright, stop saying all this nonsense.” Liu Qing, who had sensed that the atmosphere was becoming increasingly tense by the side frowned slightly. His deep voice broke the increasingly colder gaze of both parties. With a wave of his hand at Lin Xiuya and the rest, he immediately turned around and headed toward the seating area on the high platform.

“I want to see just what face you will have to arrogantly walking around the Inner Academy after the competition is over. It looks like those new people who don’t know the rules must receive some vicious slaps before they know what rules are called.” Yao Sheng left behind these harsh words with a soft voice and a cold smile when his dark, cold face passed by Xiao Yan.

Xiao Yan’s expression was so calm that there was not the slightest surge on it as he eyed Yao Sheng who had turned around and left. A cold smile slowly lifted on the corner of his mouth. Yao Sheng’s repeated provocation had completely aroused the viciousness in his heart.

“Hopefully, you will not meet me in the competition. Otherwise, I am afraid that I will give you a fatal blow.” Xiao Yan slowly twisted his head as he softly spoke in a manner that suggested nothing had happened.

“Kill him. That bastard is too arrogant.” Wu Hao viciously waved his hand and scolded. Hu Jia at his side also continued to nod her head. It appeared that she was really unhappy at this sissy fellow.

“Ke ke, I didn’t think that you had a grudge with this fellow.” Lin Xiuya turned around and gave Xiao Yan a smile as he mockingly continued, “However, it is also not totally unexpected. Junior Xun Er slapped Liu Fei. In order to please her, Yao Sheng would naturally come and find trouble with you. Due to his status, it is difficult for him to make things difficult



for a girl. Hence, he has shifted his resentment to you. From the looks of his expression earlier, it is likely that he will not hold anything back if you were to really meet him in the competition.”

“You should be a little careful. That fellow’s Dou Qi is a little unusual. He practices water affinity Dou Qi. It is rumored that he was accidentally bitten by a poisonous being called the ‘Bone Eroding Dark Scorpion’. Not only did he not die because of it, but he had also accidentally merged the poison into his Dou Qi. When he fights with others, the poison collaborates with the lingering gentleness of the water affinity Dou Qi and quietly combines with his Dou Qi to penetrate the other party’s body. If it is not expelled in time, that person will die within less than a day.” Lin Xiuya laughingly said. It was not known whether it was intentional or not, but he had revealed all of the foundation of Yao Sheng in his words.

Xiao Yan nodded quietly. He cupped his hands toward Lin Xiuya and smiled as he said, “Thank you very much.” Although Xiao Yan did not need to fear Yao Sheng’s Dou Qi, that had merged with poison liquid, with the ‘Green Lotus Core Flame’ protecting his body, Xiao Yan would naturally accept Lin Xiuya’s good intention.

“I also see that fellow as an eyesore. However, he usually behaves very satisfactory in front of me. Therefore, I cannot find an excuse to teach him a lesson. If you are really able to meet him in the competition, you can help me give him another punch in passing.” Lin Xiuya spoke in a joking manner.

Xiao Yan smiled and nodded. However, he laughed coldly in his heart, “Won’t he be let off too lightly if it is just ordinary physical pain?” One must viciously tear out a wound that was dripping with blood when faced with this kind of person with a cheap skin. Only then would he retain a fresh memory.

The atmosphere of the high platform had once again become vibrant once Liu Qing’s group left. As time gradually flowed, the number of people on the high platform also increased. As he gazed down, Xiao Yan was a little surprised to find that those seats below were completely filled at this moment. The large black mass of human heads caused people’s eyes to be

dazzled.

“Gong!”

An ancient ‘gong’ sound suddenly reverberated through the incomparably noisy stadium and it resounded without disappearing within the place. Under the sound of this ‘gong’, the noisiness also slowly declined until it finally completely disappeared.

“Chi!”

The sound of the ‘gong’ quietly fell and a loud rushing wind sound suddenly appeared in the sky. Everyone raised their heads and they could merely see some vague figures that flashed and disappeared. Their gazes immediately lowered, only to see dozens of old human figures had unknowingly appeared in the special seats on a tall platform.

Xiao Yan’s gaze swept across these old figures. Most of them were the familiar Elders within the academy. The black-robed, old man with the white beard and hair in the middle was surprisingly the First Elder, Su Qian.

“It is really unexpected that even he has made an appearance. It appears that the Inner Academy views this ‘Strong Ranking’ Grand Competition very seriously.” Xiao Yan softly muttered.

Su Qian slowly walked forward. His hand appeared to virtually press on the air. The entire stadium immediately quieted until all that was left were numerous breathing sounds. His gaze slowly swept across the entire place before finally stopping on the body of a black-robed young man who was leaning on the guardrail. A faint smile spilled from his eyes. After which, an old low voice sounded beside the ears of everyone present.

“Those with a place on the ‘Strong Ranking’, please enter the arena!”

As Su Qian’s voice fell, one could immediately see the human figures on the tall platform flashing and moving. Numerous human figures drew an arc through the air as they steadily landed in the arena. They raised their heads and observed the countless number of human heads around them. A wave of fiery fighting intent soared quietly.

The true Grand Competition was about to ensue!

# Chapter 557: Determining One's Opponent

“Bang!”

A human figure that was like a black-colored metal pagoda carried a sharp rushing wind sound as his feet heavily landed on the ground. In an instant, the dark-black ground made of special material quietly formed a few tiny crack lines spreading from the spot where his feet landed. Moreover, the instant he landed, the dozens of competitors on the arena clearly sensed the ground shaking viciously. Immediately, they threw surprised gazes at that black shadow. Only when their gaze took in who that person was did they come to a sudden understanding.

Tyrant Spear Liu Qing. It was likely that he was the only one who possessed such a sharp overbearing brute strength.

The moment Liu Qing landed, his body was as straight as the body of a spear, not even bending a little. The black-colored heavy spear on his back was as tall as him and faintly a thick, heavy aura seeped out of it.

Liu Qing suddenly raised his head after landing on the ground. His gaze was thrown at a certain spot at the tall platform, and it was filled with a hot fighting intent. The place that the gaze was thrown to was the expected Lin Xiuya!

The gazes of the entire place followed Liu Qing's sight and moved. Finally, they stopped at Lin Xiuya's body. They sensed the sharp head-to-head aura of both parties and a great anticipation was felt in their hearts. They did not know just who would emerge victorious when the true two experts at the peak of the Inner Academy were to fight.

Lin Xiuya gave a faint smile when faced with the gazes of everyone present. He cupped his hands toward Xiao Yan a short distance away and immediately pressed his toes gently on the ground. His body was like a falling piece of lead as he flashed off the tall platform. A pale-green-colored tornado immediately took shape under his feet. Finally, he

appeared to be walking down a flight of stairs. Each time his foot descended, it would appear like it was stepping on some kind of invisible stairs. This scene appeared to be somewhat like the realm of walking through the air. Such a skill undoubtedly caused a cheer to erupt in the stadium. All of them knew that even if it was an elite Dou Wang, he would need to borrow the force of Dou Qi wings in order to remain in the air. Something like this scene of appearing to not borrow any force to walk as though one was walking on flat ground would at least require the strength of a Dou Huang in order to be achieved.

Even some of those Elders on that high platform nodded their heads slightly upon eyeing this skill that Lin Xiuya had revealed. With their sight, they were naturally able to see that the former did not truly appear to be walking on flat ground. Instead, he borrowed the wind affinity of his Dou Qi to form an invisible landing spot under his feet. It could not remain for long but even if this was the case, it was something that required an exquisite control of one's Dou Qi. With Lin Xiuya's current strength, being able to perform at such a level was already very astonishing.

Under the shocked gazes of the entire place, Lin Xiuya slowly walked down through the air. His feet gently landed on the ground and he immediately stood with his hands behind him. His body appeared elegant. At this moment, there were already quite a number of female students in the surrounding area who had eyes that were emitting stars.

“Chi...”

Just as everyone was drunk from the scene of Lin Xiuya stepping on empty space earlier, the sound of low, deep thunder suddenly roared through the air. Some people hurriedly raised their heads. However, other than the flash of a silver glow, which disappeared immediately in their eyes, they did not actually discover anything else. Only when their gazes shot all over the place did some sharp-eyed people discover that there was an additional black-robed human figure that had appeared in the arena.

“Xiao Yan? This fellow's speed... is really fast.” Currently, all the students in the Inner Academy were already familiar with Xiao Yan's

appearance. Additionally, that signature Heavy Xuan Ruler also revealed his identity. In an instant, low surprised voices sounded one after another.

Xiao Yan's appearance was not as heavy or beautiful as the previous two, but in the eyes of those people with true strength it did not lose to Liu Qing or Lin Xiuya. After all, that kind of speed was indeed so fast that it was somewhat terrifying...

Liu Qing, Lin Xiuya, and a few others in the arena turned their heads and threw their gazes to the quiet, black-robed, young man. An extremely obscure, shallow fear flashed across their eyes. This kind of speed was something that even they had to view seriously. Additionally, other than one or two of them, many of them knew in their hearts that even if they were to display all their strength, it was likely that they would not be able to achieve this kind of speed.

"The speed of this little fellow would likely have difficulty finding many people in the Dou Ling class who can match up with him. Moreover, from the looks of his agility technique, it still appears somewhat tender. He should have just reached initial mastery. I really don't know just how terrifying it will be once he practices it to its pinnacle point." On the tall platform, Elder Hao, who had quite a good relationship with Xiao Yan, fondled his beard and praised sincerely.

"The class of the agility technique that he is practicing is not low. Otherwise, it would definitely be impossible to achieve such an effect." An Elder nodded his head, and had faintly guessed some clues.

First Elder Su Qian stood indifferently on the spot. The somewhat familiar roar of thunder flashed in his mind. A moment later, he appeared to have remembered something and his eyes instantly narrowed. His heart was somewhat surprised as he muttered, "How could this little fellow possess such an agility technique? This is a secret by the 'Wind Lightning Pavilion' that isn't given to others. If those fellows were to discover this in the future, I'm afraid that some entanglement would be unavoidable."

If Xiao Yan knew that Elder Su was able to recognise his Dou Technique at a glance, it was likely that he would be extremely stunned, feeling that

the eyes of this old fellow were a little too sharp.

Not long after Xiao Yan and the other two entered the arena, a white-clothed little girl slowly followed the stairs and climbed up from a certain spot under the stage. After which, under the countless number of stunned gazes, she walked to the front of the group. Her mouth appeared to be chewing something as she looked in all directions. She smiled immediately when she saw Xiao Yan, revealing her cute orderly little fangs.

Not many people in the Inner Academy knew about Zi Yan's identity. Perhaps, only just the people on the 'Strong Ranking' and some older students knew about her. For those new students who had come in a little later, they had never heard of this name. After all, the former did not frequently show her face in the Inner Academy. Moreover, no one dared to challenge her. Hence, this resulted in the people of the Inner Academy only knowing Liu Qing, Lin Xiuya, and the others, but they did not know that the first place on the 'Strong Ranking,' the person who rode over them, was actually such a cute little girl.

Waves of private conversations sounded from the surrounding viewing gallery. However, the expressions of some of the competitors had turned a little unnatural. Other than those who had squeezed into the 'Strong Ranking' during this recent period of time, fear flashed across the faces of most of the rest of the people. The reaction of these people caused everyone in the stadium to feel at a loss.

Zi Yan was too lazy to bother about the gazes around her. Her mouth repeatedly chewed the Danwans that Xiao Yan had refined for her. Her laid back manner did not appear to have the pressure that came with the approaching Grand Competition... if it was two years ago, there were indeed some opponents in this Inner Academy who could fight with her. Now, however, those elites had already graduated and left. As time flowed by, she had become the student who had remained in the Inner Academy for the longest time with the appearance of a little girl. Uh, although this student was a little strange...

Therefore, with Zi Yan's current abnormal brute strength, it was likely that even Liu Qing and the rest would have difficulty contending with her.

This little fellow had already become an existence on the ‘Strong Ranking’ that exceeded common sense.

“Cough!” A faint coughing sound that contained Dou Qi sounded beside the ears of everyone. Immediately, the private conversations began to soften. A moment later, they completely disappeared. Numerous gazes were lifted as they eyed the black-robed Elder in the middle of the tall platform. Their gazes were filled with respect and fear. As the First Elder whose strength and authority in the Inner Academy was merely below that of the mysterious headmaster, even an ordinary Elder maintained respect toward him, much less these students.

“Since everyone is already here, the Grand Competition can begin.” Su Qian said with a faint smile, “However, I would like to give a reminder before the start of the competition. Although the Inner Academy has an open-minded culture, I still hope that everyone can do their best not to unleash a fatal blow in this competition. All of you are still students, and this is not a place like the ‘Black-Corner Region’ where people eat one another. Although the Inner Academy has a somewhat bloody place like the Fighting Arena, its original intention is to train all of you and not to let all of you fight to the death. Therefore, everyone should gauge your strength when you strike.”

Some of the competitors nodded slightly when they heard Su Qian’s words. However, most of them maintained a non-committal attitude. In this kind of competition who would not go all out in order to enter the top ten? When one went all out, one would have difficulty controlling one’s strength. It was inevitable that accidents would occur.

Su Qian’s gaze swept over the faces of the competitors and helplessly shook his head. The atmosphere of the Inner Academy had gradually become fiercer recently. Those novices who did not know how to go all out and kill in the Fighting Arena had also grown into vicious wolves of the grassland with extremely rich fighting experience. It was a little difficult to contain their ferociousness at this moment.

“The rules are the same as they were in the past. Opponents are determined by drawing lots.” Seeing that his words did not have much of



an effect, Su Qian also ceased to speak any more unnecessary words and instead spoke in a deep voice.

The moment the words sounded, he waved his sleeves gently. Immediately, a black cloth that was not far in front of them drifted down, revealing a rock table under it. There was a large wooden cylinder on the rock table which contained quite a number of bamboo sticks.

“The cylinder contains twenty-five sticks with a blue bottom and twenty-five sticks with a red one. The numbers are all from one to twenty five. If you were to pick a stick with a blue bottom containing the number twelve, your opponent would be the person who holds the stick with a red bottom with the number twelve.” Su Qian summarized the rules of the lot picking once. This thing was not very complicated, therefore, those students who had experienced this for the first time could also understand.

“Alright, let the lot picking begin!”

The competitors orderly walked to the rock table one at a time and picked a bamboo stick from within the cylinder. They read out their number in front of everyone before withdrawing.

Xiao Yan was not anxious to pick a lot. He stood in the same spot and suddenly frowned slightly. Tilting his head slightly, his gaze swept over the place behind him and coincidentally saw a vicious gaze. From his appearance, that person was actually Bai Cheng who had been defeated by him back then. This matter of his seemed like he was still bearing a grudge in his heart. Moreover, this hatred also had some dissatisfaction. Perhaps he was similar to everyone else in thinking that the reason that he had been defeated by Xiao Yan’s hands was because of the ‘Dragon Strength Pill’.

Bai Cheng’s face shook a little when he saw Xiao Yan’s gaze being thrown over. He strode forward and walked to the side of the rock table. He groped a little before picking up a bamboo stick with a red bottom. With a deep voice, he read, “Red bottom, fifteen.” Once he read it out, he withdrew to one side and continued to use a vicious gaze to stare at Xiao Yan. He viciously cursed in his heart, “It would be best that you end up

picking a bamboo stick with the same number as Liu Qing!”

Under Bai Cheng’s curse, Xiao Yan finally slowly walked to the rock table. He randomly picked out a stick with a red bottom. He was initially a little startled when he swept the bottom with his gaze. A playful feeling immediately surfaced on the corner of his mouth.

“Blue bottom... fifteen.” Xiao Yan laughed softly. His gaze was slowly lifted as he saw the cold smile on Bai Cheng’s face abruptly stiffen.

# Chapter 558: The Start of the Grand Competition

The moment Xiao Yan reported his number, Bai Cheng's expression immediately stiffened. On top of it stiffening, there was even an additional paleness.

Bai Cheng had bore a grudge for Xiao Yan ever since he had been defeated by his hands, and he had been blaming his defeat on the matter of Xiao Yan swallowing the 'Dragon Strength Pill'; perhaps this was because he did not want to admit to the true reason for losing. However, at this instant, an extremely faint fear rose in his heart. It appeared that although he was unwilling to admit it with his mouth, but in a deep region of his heart he did indeed feel a fear toward Xiao Yan.

Bai Cheng tightened his grip on the bamboo stick in his hand and eyed the playful smile that hung on the corner of Xiao Yan's mouth. His face twitched a little as he lowered his eyes. That gaze was like he had grabbed a ravenous wolf with his hand. Dammit, even if I have to go all out this time around, I won't give you the opportunity to place in a top ten position on the 'Strong Ranking'.

Xiao Yan calmly eyed Bai Cheng who had lowered his head. He played with the bamboo stick in his hand, but was not too worried in his heart. Back then, when he was only a one star Dou Ling, he had been able to defeat Bai Cheng. Now that his strength had advanced quite a little, he no longer needed to do something like tire himself out from expending too much effort which he did the last time.

After Xiao Yan, there were some people who continued to pick the bamboo sticks. Among them, Wu Hao's opponent was a one star Dou Ling that was ranked 43rd on the 'Strong Ranking'. This kind of strength could only be considered to be at the back of the 'Strong Ranking'. Although Wu Hao's strength was merely at the peak of the Da Dou Shi class, his chances of victory were quite great if he went all out. From the looks of his smiling appearance, it was clear that he was rejoicing at his luck.

After the final competitor picked his lot under everyone's gaze, the order of the matches in the arena had mostly been settled. The number of dispirited people with helpless looks on their faces was not lacking. This was because their opponents were those experts who were ranked at the top of the 'Strong Ranking'. Among them, a fellow who had reached the strength of a four star Dou Ling had coincidentally picked a number that was the same as Liu Qing. The instant the number had been read out, this fellow's expression immediately turned ashen. Although his strength could be considered to be at the middle level on the 'Strong Ranking', his chances of victory undoubtedly fell to an insignificant value in the face of a top expert like Liu Qing.

What was interesting was the opponent of Zi Yan. This fellow was a dark horse that had recently stolen the limelight and entered the 'Strong Ranking'. Moreover, from the looks of his manner, he seemed to be a person who only knew how to undertake a retreat and train. This resulted in him not having much knowledge about Zi Yan. Therefore, when he saw that his opponent was actually a little girl, he began to part his mouth and laugh disdainfully under some gazes from around him were reserved for looking at an idiot. Seeing this scene, Xiao Yan and the others controlled their laughter. Perhaps this fellow would immediately cry until dusk once the competition began.

Su Qian's gaze slowly swept across the entire place. When he saw that all the competitors had figured out their opponents, he nodded slightly. A faint old voice reverberated throughout the stadium, "Since the drawing of lots is over, all of you should return to your seats first. The order of the matches will be drawn in succession."

Once his words sounded, Su Qian's hand drew a bamboo stick from a cylinder in front of him. He glanced at it and said faintly, "Number seven."

The bodies of two people among the competitors in the arena suddenly sprang straight up upon hearing the number that Su Qian called.

"Those people who have the blue and red bamboo stick bottom with the number seven should stay. The others should leave." Su Qian ordered as he waved his hand.

Everyone immediately rushed out upon hearing Su Qian's order. Only two people were left.

The two people in the arena also knew the rules. In the next moment, they swiftly focused their attention. Their faces were tight as faint Dou Qi overflowed from their bodies. Each of them took out their weapons as their gazes sharply gauged their opponent.

The viewing gallery which had become much quieter eyed the gradually permeating fiery fighting intent in the arena, and private conversations once again broke out. Some of the gazes had also become boiling hot at this moment. The 'Strong Ranking' Grand Competition which they had anticipated for a long time finally had its curtain drawn.

Xiao Yan and Wu Hao returned to the tall platform. The former gaze met with Lin Xuya not far away, exchanging a smile and a nod of their heads.

"These two fellows are ranked 35th and 38th. Their strength is not too far apart from one another. There will be some anxiety when they fight." Wu Hao eyed the two people in the arena and laughed.

Xiao Yan randomly nodded. His body leaned on the guardrail as his gaze lazily stayed in the arena.

"It is unexpected that Xiao Yan ge-ge's opponent is actually Bai Cheng again." Xun Er covered her mouth and laughed softly.

"He is just someone who was defeated by me." Xiao Yan smiled and replied. His gaze had some unknown feeling to it. Although there were a couple people who would say that his victory over Bai Cheng was because he relied on the help of a medicinal pill, even after he had put up a stage and accepted challenges back then, it did not remove the root of the issue. Now that they were going to meet again, he could coincidentally clearly display his strength for everyone to see in public. If he could defeat Bai Cheng once, then he would be able to defeat him a second time and even a third time!

"But that fellow appears to hold a grudge against you. Your meeting this time around might really end up in an all out match. Although you are not

afraid of him, you should also be careful. In the event that he injures you after going all out, you would be disadvantaged in the matches that follow.” Wu Hao frowned and reminded.

Xiao Yan smiled and nodded. His character was originally very cautious. Naturally, he would take precaution against such matters. Whether he was able to enter the top ten of the ‘Strong Ranking’ affected the important matter of whether the ‘Fallen Heart Flame’ would end up in his hands. Therefore, he adopted an extremely cautious attitude to this competition, afraid that a simple mistake would occur that would result in a deviation from his plans.

As the few of them conversed, the two people below had already abruptly collided under the waves of fiery noises from the viewing gallery. Powerful Dou Qi interacted with one another, erupting with waves of low, deep explosive sounds. As the human figures flashed, a clear metal sound repeatedly appeared and sparks flashed out. From the start of the fight, the warmup was omitted and they entered into a true all out fight.

One of the two people in the arena was of the fire affinity Dou Qi while the other was of the wood affinity. Although the strength of the latter was a little stronger, he appeared a little strenuous in his defense of the other party’s attack due to his Dou Qi being suppressed by the other party. The fire affinity Dou Qi competitor was also quite smart. He understood the essence of going all out in one go. As his attacks were unleashed, fiery, hot wind appeared continuously. The pale-red Dou Qi were like clusters of substance-like flames that rose up, drawing numerous arcs through the air and violently hacking toward his opponent. However, under this ferocious and vicious attack from him, that wood affinity Dou Qi student did not show the slightest panic or change in expression. The latter’s face was calm as he received all the attacks from the opponent. Although he appeared to have fallen into a disadvantage, he did not receive any serious injuries.

The fight in the arena could barely be considered a high level fight even within the Inner Academy. Hence, the audience in the surrounding viewing gallery was focused on it. Their eyes did not blink as they stared at

the two human figures in the arena. Rousing shouts and unified cries were emitted and reverberated unceasingly in the arena.

Although the fight in the arena was extremely exciting to the students in the viewing gallery, it could only cause Xiao Yan and the others to nod their heads slightly. After all, with their strength being different, it was natural they would view things differently. No matter what they saw, they would look at things from a different point of view.

“That fire affinity Dou Qi student is about to lose.” Xiao Yan lazily glanced at the fight in the arena before suddenly opening his mouth to speak.

“Huh?” Wu Hao and Wu Jia by the side were a little stunned when they heard this. Currently, that fire affinity Dou Qi fellow basically held the complete advantage in the fight.

“Although the fire affinity Dou Qi has powerful and vicious attacks, it cannot last very long. It is clear that his opponent’s fighting experience is even richer than him and knows how to dodge and drag things out. Wood affinity Dou Qi may have a weaker attack strength than fire affinity Dou Qi, but it is superior in its endurance. Moreover, it can also automatically heal injuries. If you were to carefully sense things, you would be able to discover that the fire affinity Dou Qi student’s attacks are already becoming slower. His opponent, on the other hand, is turning the situation around. From the looks of things, it is likely that the victor will be determined within ten minutes.” Xun Er by the side smiled and explained the situation in a soft voice. Her insight was not the least bit weaker than Xiao Yan. From a certain point of view, she was even able to see more accurately than Xiao Yan.

Wu Hao and Hu Jia also became more attentive when they heard Xun Er’s analysis. A moment later, they nodded their heads in surprise. “Indeed.”

Xiao Yan glanced at the smiling face of Xun Er beside him. This little girl looked at things more accurately than him. At the very least he was unable to determine that the victor of these two people would be determined

within ten minutes.

Things were exactly as Xun Er had predicted. At the eighth minute, a sudden change occurred in the anxiety filled battle. The wood affinity Dou Qi student, who had been passively defending, suddenly unleashed an extremely sharp attack. The pale-green Dou Qi in his hand was like a beam of light as it shot out. Finally, it passed through the defense of the opponent in a lightning fast manner and heavily smashed into his chest. Immediately, that fire affinity Dou Qi student's face turned pale-white. A mouthful of fresh blood spilled down from the corner of his mouth. His body violently fell out of the arena. By the time he climbed up, he could only hear the roaring thunderclap-like applause throughout the stadium. That face of his was downcast and dissatisfied.

"The first match is won by He Bu!"

Su Qian indifferently announced the result of the match from the high platform. This match could not be considered as very intense. It was like child's play to him. There was not much for him to praise.

As the applause sounded throughout the stadium, Su Qian leaned gently on the back of his chair. He once again picked up a bamboo stick from the bamboo cylinder. After being slightly startled, he immediately shed out an involuntarily smile as he spoke toward the few Elders by his side, "Looks like we will see a more interesting match than the last one."

"The second match, number twenty-eight."

TL: Error on author's part

As Su Qian's voice fell, a human figure suddenly flashed up the stage. The person was a man whose face was haughty and arrogant. As the dark horse whose recent limelight had even exceeded that of Xiao Yan's, he charged into the 33rd position in the 'Strong Ranking' from outside of it. Moreover, this fellow appeared to have let out some arrogant words saying that if he was given five days, he would definitely also triumph over Xiao Yan. This caused quite a number of people to admire his pride. However, Xiao Yan did not give a reply to this. The latter was busy with his retreat, and did not have the time to be bothered by some fellows who had just



become successful.

Not long after the man got onto the stage, a little body appeared under everyone's gaze. The little girl wearing white clothes slowly climbed onto the stage under the snickering laughter in the eyes of Xiao Yan and the others.

"Ha ha, little girl, relax. I will definitely hold back!" The man could not help but laugh as he eyed the white-clothed little girl. He appeared to already be able to see the beautiful scene of him advancing.

Xiao Yan, Lin Xiu Ya, Liu Qing, and the others on the tall platform wiped the cold sweat off their foreheads in the face of the arrogant laughter of that man.

"This pitiful fellow..."

# Chapter 559: Bei Ju

TL: I think that the name Bei Ju (贝嵎) is a wordplay on the word bei ju (悲剧) meaning tragedy

The laughter of the man directly caused some of the competitors on the tall platform, who knew the reality of the situation, to be silent. Even Liu Qing, Lin Xiuya, and the others could not even guarantee a fifty-percent chance of victory even if they went all out to face Zi Yan. Yet this fellow...

The man on the stage also sensed that there was something wrong with the gazes around him after he spoke those words. However, he did not know the exact reason for it. The smile on his face stiffened a little as his gaze swept carefully over Zi Yan. How would he be able to see Zi Yan's baseline with just his strength? In his eyes, he could only sense that the latter's body did not have very strong Dou Qi flowing. She appeared weak and appeared to be too frail to even receive a blow...

Zi Yan finally came to the arena under the numerous strange gazes from around. Her large dark-black eyes glanced at the man as her ten fingers crossed each other. With a gentle push, her bones immediately emitted a cracking sound. She raised her head and eyed First Elder Su Qian and spoke in a proud and old manner, "Hey, old fellow. Can we begin?"

The entire stadium was immediately dumbfounded when these words were emitted. Some of the people who knew Zi Yan's identity were a little better off. Those who were ignorant had faces that were completely dull. There was actually someone in the Inner Academy who dared to speak to the First Elder in such a manner? Moreover, Zi Yan's opponent was also among these dull people.

Su Qian helplessly shook his head from the tall platform. He really did not have any solution with regards to this playful little fellow. His gaze glanced at some of those Elders who were snickering beside him and could only wave his hand as he said, "Begin. Remember, do not take a person's life!"

Zi Yan cutely shrugged her shoulders and said, "Relax. One punch.

Whether it will result in a serious or minor injury all depends on how well he can resist blows.”

“Arrogant!” Although the other party was only a little girl, the face of the man on the opposite side could not help but sink after being looked down upon in such a matter in front of so many people. He said in an extremely stern voice, “Don’t think that I will show mercy just because you are a little girl. Remember my name, Bei Ju!”

Zi Yan immediately swung her pale-purple ponytail as she eyed the man who had displayed a lecturing manner. Her cute clear fangs rubbed against one another. Immediately, her delicate feet were raised slightly and landed abruptly a moment later!

“Bang!”

A deep muffled explosion suddenly sounded when her feet landed. In an instant, a half a foot wide crack line swiftly spread out from Zi Yan’s feet in front of endless shocked gasps. The crack line was like a python that was ambushing the underground. In a short while, it reached the feet of the similarly stunned man who called himself Bei Ju. The crack line extended, and an invisible force shot out. Finally, it smashed heavily toward the two legs of the man.

Bei Ju also appeared to have sensed something when the crack line had reached his feet. Although a dark shadow and uneasiness had appeared in his heart the instant that Zi Yan had displayed her frightening strength, he was unable to think much at that moment. With a stern cry, powerful Dou Qi immediately erupted violently from his body, forming a gray-white Dou Qi Armor on the surface of his body an instant later.

Bei Ju’s Dou Qi Armor agglomerated extremely swiftly. Clearly, he also possessed quite a great strength in order to be able to reach this step. However... if something must be blamed, he could only blame his poor luck in meeting Zi Yan, who even Liu Qing, Lin Xiuya, and the others avoided at any cost.

With Zi Yan’s strength which was comparable to a Dou Wang, even a mere single strike possessed a strength that could not be underestimated.

Hence, even though Bei Ju's body had Dou Qi Armor protecting him, that tough looking Dou Qi Armor was basically completely smashed apart at a withering pace the moment the two came into contact. Moreover, his armor completely cracked apart in an extremely short time... that ferocious force mercilessly penetrated the Dou Qi Armor and collided at a spot between Bei Ju's legs. Therefore... a sharp scream that tore his lungs sounded in the stadium.

“Ah!”

As they watched Bei Ju, who was hugging his lower body while his entire body was curled up on the ground like a large prawn, everyone wiped off the cold sweat on their face while looking stunned. Some of the male students held their lower body unconsciously as a reflex. Their bodies became cold. If they were to be struck in this manner... it was likely that even if that thing was healed, one would form a phobia in their hearts.

Xiao Yan and the others on the high platform were similarly stunned as they eyed the arena. A moment later, they involuntarily swallowed a mouthful of saliva. This fellow... although she appeared to be harmless to both men and beasts and even looked quite cute... her attack was quite vicious.

“What brute force... it seems that she did not even use any energy and completely relied on the strength of her physical body.” Xun Er's watery pupils stared intently at Zi Yan as she softly spoke. Her voice contained a little surprise.

Xiao Yan nodded slightly. The moment Zi Yan struck, he did not sense much of an energy fluctuation. However, he understood things much more clearly the moment he thought of her true identity. Most of the Magical Beasts were renowned for their powerful physical bodies. Moreover, even Yao Lao had said that Zi Yan might be a rare unique beast from ancient times. In that case, it was not surprising that she possessed such a powerful strength.

The faces of Su Qian and the other Elders on the judges seats twitched a little. Some of the Elders let out a couple of dry laughs with none of them

knowing what they ought to say...

“Cough.” Su Qian withdrew the emotions on his face and let out a dry cough. He said with a bitter smile, “Zi Yan is victorious in this match.”

“Chi, boring.” Zi Yan curled her mouth. She waved her hand in a bored manner as her feet stomped on the ground. Her lovely little body shot explosively into the air before gently landing near the guardrail, that Xiao Yan was leaning on, on the tall platform. She smiled at him.

“Your attack is really vicious.” As Xiao Yan eyed Zi Yan’s cute manner that appeared to be carved out from jade, even he would not believe that Zi Yan would be able to use such a vicious tactic had he not witnessed it for himself.

“The other time, I had coincidentally seen him obtain victory in a match. After the match, he had openly told everyone that his next opponent was you.” Zi Yan glanced at the next match which had begun in the arena, grabbed her pale-purple pony tail and laughed as she spoke.

Xiao Yan was a little stunned when he heard this. He had thought that Zi Yan had acted in this manner because she was impatient with the other party. It was unexpected that the matter actually contained some relation to him. However... this little girl was really amiable for him...

Xiao Yan smiled and rubbed Zi Yan’s small head. He spoke with soft laughter, “I am able to settle these kinds of matters. You need not be bothered about them.”

“If I don’t help you, you will definitely not help me refine Danwans in the future.” Zi Yan unhappily shook her head and grunted. As a Magical Beast, she did not have as many cunning plots as a human. She kept innocently thinking that only by getting Xiao Yan to truly owe her a favor would he continue to help her refine Danwans.

“You owe me a favor now that I have helped you teach that fellow a lesson. I will remember this.” Zi Yan muttered.

“Ke ke, alright. You can consider that I owe you a favor.” Xiao Yan shook his head, feeling neither able to laugh nor cry. He pulled Zi Yan’s pony tail

and eyed her cute face that had revealed a happy smile in the blink of an eye. The image of a little girl, with a timid face and her body always humbly lowered mixed with the blood of both human and snake flashed across his mind.

“I wonder how Qing Lin is doing...” Xiao Yan sighed in his heart. Back then that little girl who had fallen into the mouth of a tiger in the Jia Ma Empire had eventually been snatched away by the people from the ‘Sky Serpent Mansion’ from his hands. Xiao Yan kept feeling a certain guilt toward this timid little girl.

“Hee hee.” Zi Yan laughed when she saw Xiao Yan nodding his head. She revealed her cute little fangs. Her body stood on the guardrail and patted Xiao Yan’s shoulders while speaking in a heroic voice, “You can rest assured that with me covering for you, I will definitely let you enter the top ten. I will beat whoever dares to snatch your position until he is half alive.”

Zi Yan’s voice was not lowered. Therefore, the competitors on the high platform could hear what she said. At that moment, most of the faces changed a little. Many people understood just how frightening Zi Yan was in their hearts.

Xiao Yan helplessly shook his head. He gently knocked Zi Yan’s head. As he looked at her rubbing her forehead with a face that was filled with blame, he could not help but laugh and say, “I will naturally go all out in order to get into the top ten. If you were to help me, I would not be able to sit steadily even if I managed to enter.”

Zi Yan rolled her eyes. She muttered a couple of sentences, but complied and did not continue to say those words from a moment ago.

“Ke ke, it is unexpected that brother Xiao Yan is actually this familiar with Senior Zi Yan.” A familiar laughter suddenly sounded by his side. Xiao Yan turned his head to take a look. It was actually Lin Xiuya and the others. At this moment, the gazes of these people were all partially drifting toward Zi Yan by the side.

“Senior...” Xiao Yan’s mouth widened. He weighed the two of them and

was unable to restrain a smile. However, on top of feeling that it was funny, he was also a little stunned. Usually, Lin Xiuya maintained an indifferent aura in front of everyone. However, no matter how he looked at it, that smile contained worry and even fear...

Zi Yan glanced at Lin Xiuya and spoke lazily, "So it's you. It has been a long time since we've last met. You really ran very quickly in the last match."

Embarrassment surfaced on Lin Xiuya's face as he became speechless. Back then, in that 'Strong Ranking' Grand Competition, he had coincidentally met with Zi Yan in the final round. At that time, his strength was naturally not as strong as it was now. Therefore, the moment he met with Zi Yan, he ran away from the arena and admitted defeat in an extremely decisive manner. This caused Zi Yan, who had failed to beat up someone, to continue to feel resentment.

"This competition is really boring. You can all continue to play. Looks like there will not be a match for me today." Zi Yan eyed the extremely fiery fights in the arena that came and went only to let out a yawn. She waved her hand at Xiao Yan before she leaped down from the tall platform and sprang out of the stadium.

Xiao Yan helplessly shook his head as he eyed Zi Yan's disappeared body. He turned his head around and looked at Lin Xiuya's manner where he wanted to speak only to stop himself. Xiao Yan raised his brows, smiled, and asked, "What is it?"

"Hee hee, is brother Xiao Yan very familiar with Senior Zi Yan?" Lin Xiuya laughed dryly.

"So-so," Xiao Yan spread his hand and said.

"Hee hee, in that case I would like to ask brother to tell her that it is fine for me to lose if I meet her during the competition as long as she does not embarrass me too much. Honestly speaking, if one were to say that I am a little afraid of Liu Qing, then I would be terrified of her. I think... Liu Qing may be also thinking in this manner." Lin Xiuya spoke awkwardly.

Xiao Yan was immediately dumb when he heard this. Who would have

thought that this leader of the Inner Academy's 'Wolf Teeth' would actually be this afraid of Zi Yan.

"I will help you tell her when we meet." Xiao Yan endured the laughter in his heart as he nodded.

Lin Xiuya finally sighed in relief after hearing Xiao Yan's reply. The former gave the latter a smile of gratitude before cupping his hands together and leaving.

Xiao Yan let out soft laughter as he eyed Lin Xiuya who had turned around and left. It was indeed true that one thing surrenders to another...

"The fourth match: number fifteen!"

A cry suddenly sounded from the judges' seats just as Xiao Yan sighed, causing him to be slightly startled. He immediately raised his head, only to see the faintly smiling gaze of Su Qian being shot toward him.

"Is it finally my turn..."

Xiao Yan turned around and threw his gaze toward a pair of vicious gazes that had been thrown over. The corner of his mouth was lifted into a cold smile!



# Chapter 560: Ruler Technique

Two human figures were facing each other from a distance within the spacious arena. One was black, the other was white. They appeared extremely eye-catching in this pale-gray arena.

“It is actually Xiao Yan and Bai Cheng? These two fellows are colliding again...”

“Hee hee, this is going to be a good show. I heard that after being defeated by Xiao Yan’s hands the last time around, Bai Cheng had been telling others that it was because Xiao Yan had consumed the ‘Dragon Strength Pill’. Now that they have met in this kind of competition that doesn’t allow the consumption of medicinal pills, I wonder if he can come back from his previous loss?”

“I think that it will be very difficult. Xiao Yan even defeated Cheng Nan when he put up his fighting stage last time. He is a six or seven star elite Dou Ling with strength that is not any weaker than Bai Cheng...”

The extremely crowded viewing gallery immediately emitted quite a number of private conversations as they eyed the two people standing opposite each other. Most of the people in the Inner Academy recognized these two people who had once erupted in an intense fight. The battle in the fighting arena last time had established Xiao Yan’s position on the ‘Strong Ranking’. However, the loser Bai Sheng had his reputation diminished by quite a bit. It was said that enemies frequently cross each other’s path, and now that they had met once again it seemed that that saying carried some weight.

Xiao Yan was unmoved by the private conversations that had sparked up around him. He rotated his hand slightly and his large Heavy Xuan Ruler flashed and appeared. With a random swing, a powerful force formed under his body, blowing some of the dust on the ground until it spread in all directions.

Bai Cheng watched Xiao Yan in a dark and cold manner. When he saw that the latter had taken out his weapon, Bai Cheng also took out a long

pale-yellow spear. The body of the spear shook and vibrated in an extremely swift manner. Immediately, blurry flower-like shadows formed from the spear, annihilating anything in their path. Although there was faint fear deep within his heart, this fear disappeared with the wind at this moment. Currently, he could only defeat Xiao Yan in order for all the glory that belonged to him in the past to return. The ranking on the 'Strong Ranking' he had lost would also return to him.

"I must... defeat this bastard! At all costs!" Bai Cheng grit his teeth. His eyes became much darker and colder. He had already decided that he would use any means for this match. All those whatever rules about not delivering a fatal blow could go to hell. The victor is the king and the loser is the bandit. As long as he won, all the rumors would automatically cease!

Xiao Yan glanced at the volatile face of Bai Cheng which eventually solidified into a dark and solemn look. After which, Xiao Yan threw his gaze toward the judges' seats.

Su Qian slowly stood up when he sensed Xiao Yan's gaze looking over. As he stood up, the noise in the stadium automatically receded. Su Qian gaze looked in all directions. Without saying anything unnecessary, he said, "The fourth match, Begin!"

The moment his voice sounded, the gazes in the stadium that were focusing on the two of them became boiling hot. This match was perhaps the most interesting one among the first few matches of this season's 'Strong Ranking' Grand Competition.

Of course, it was not only the surrounding gazes that changed. Xiao Yan and Bai Cheng in the arena had also unleashed a ferocious aura at this moment. A green and a yellow-colored Dou Qi surged out from the respective bodies of the two, wrapping around both of them. The two pressuring atmospheres that were created from the powerful Dou Qi spreading out, caused some of the students who were a little closer to the fighting stage to breath in a sluggish manner.

"They are indeed worthy of being experts on the 'Strong Ranking'. It is not just one level higher than the few matches earlier." The surrounding

students quietly praised in their hearts as they sensed the spreading pressuring force.

Xiao Yan twisted his neck slightly. Waves of powerful Dou Qi swiftly flowed within his Qi Paths, providing every part of his body with an unceasing strength. His hand held the Heavy Xuan Ruler tightly as green-colored Dou Qi lingered over it. Occasionally, there would be an extremely faint green-colored flame seedling rising up. Each time that this wisp of flame sprang up, the surrounding air would temporarily distort. One would not be able to sense it unless one had very sharp eyes.

The two of them raised their heads, and four eyes made contact in the arena. Sparks shot everywhere since each pair of eyes contained some icy coldness.

“Cough.”

As four pairs of eyes focused tightly on each other, an extremely tense atmosphere spread out from their auras. This continued for nearly one to two minutes before a cough sounded outside of the arena. Finally, it turned into the straw that broke the camel’s back, completely detonating this extremely tense atmosphere!

“Chi!”

The two human figures who were covered by powerful Dou Qi almost shot out simultaneously like arrows the instant the cough sounded. Due to their extremely fast speed, it resulted in many people outside the arena only being able to see two blurry shadows explosively shooting forward. Finally, they appeared like meteorites. They each carried an incomparably strong rushing force as they violently collided in the middle of the arena, appearing extremely shocking to the eye!

“Ding!”

The two vague human figures passed each other in the middle of the arena. The sharp long spear pierced out in a lightning-like manner. However, it was easily blocked by the black ruler that was thick like a shield. Sparks immediately flew in all directions. A tiny circular energy ripple spread out at the point of contact.

The moment the figures crossed each other, an expressionless Xiao Yan viciously whirled the heavy ruler in his hand in a reflexive manner. The powerful wind that was carried on the heavy ruler tore through the air. A sharp rushing wind sound caused the eardrums of everyone to feel a piercing pain.

“Ding, ding, ding!”

As the heavy ruler was swung, Bai Cheng forcefully twisted his body. The long spear in his hand explosively pierced out over ten times in a short moment. Each spear landed on a spot on the heavy ruler. That clear sound almost agglomerated into a tone that was extremely orderly. Compared to last time, Bai Cheng this time around... appeared a little stronger.

Countless people in the viewing gallery outside the arena displayed surprised expressions as they eyed the flashing human figures in the arena. With their eyesight, most could only see sparks shooting in all directions and human figures that reached their destinations in a flash while the weapons of the two collided.

“Bai Cheng appears to have become much stronger compared to the last time they fought.” Lin Xiuya eyed the intense fight in the arena from the high platform before suddenly knitting his brows and speaking his thoughts.

“He is indeed much stronger. This time around, it doesn’t appear that he has eaten any medicinal pill. Instead it seems like... he broke through a level.” Yan Hao replied in a deep voice.

“It looks like he had actually obtained some benefits from being defeated by Xiao Yan the last time.” Han Yue’s delicate hand held a thread of long silver-colored hair as she faintly spoke.

“It is but a little improvement. Defeat has already caused a shadow to form in his heart. If he is really able to defeat Xiao Yan this time around, not only will he eliminate this shadow, but his strength might also soar greatly in the future. If he still loses, it is likely that he will forever halt at the Dou Ling class.” Lin Xiuya predicted calmly.

“That seems to be a little difficult.” An extremely faint smile surfaced on Han Yue’s cool face. Her pretty eyes looked at the black shadow in the arena which was just like a maggot in a tarsal bone. She said, “In just two short months, Xiao Yan has become a three star Dou Ling. This speed could be called number one in the entire Inner Academy. Moreover, his movement speed... it is likely he is the first among anyone below the Dou Wang class.”

Lin Xiuya spread his hands. Back then, he had witnessed Xiao Yan’s speed, so he did not think that Han Yue’s words were empty. In terms of speed, even he would likely be unable to contend with Xiao Yan unless he displayed the extremely powerful Dou Qi wings.

A few thoughts also rolled over Xiao Yan’s heart in the arena while the few people were conversing. As the person who had personally exchanged blows with Bai Cheng before, he clearly sensed how powerful that fellow was now. However, the latter could not be considered much of a threat to him. Back then, Xiao Yan, who had just advanced to the Dou Ling class, had relied on the ‘Skyfire Three Mysterious Change’ in order to have the qualification to collide head on with Bai Cheng. Now that he had already advanced to a three star Dou Ling, his strength had soared greatly. Moreover, by borrowing the special effect of the ‘Flame Mantra’ Qi Method, he would not lose out even if he were to fight head on with an ordinary five star Dou Ling. Adding this to his physically strengthened body and the ‘Three Thousand Lightning Movement’, the current Xiao Yan was already able to entangle and fight with Bai Cheng without using the ‘Skyfire Three Mysterious Change’.

“No wonder you have some confidence. You have actually broken through one level. However, it is insufficient to just rely on this.” A cold smile lifted on the corner of Xiao Yan’s mouth. His mind suddenly focused, focusing all his attention on the ruler. The feeling of the scene where the tree waves surged in an overwhelming fashion repeatedly flashed in his mind like he was back in the deep mountains. As he sank into this profoundness, the heavy ruler in his hand also abruptly pierced out. A couple of ruler shadows took shape in the air before its trajectory

suddenly changed. The originally heavy, bulky ruler was actually just like an ordinary spear in Xiao Yan's hand at this moment. Its degree of agility was actually no weaker than the long spear in Bai Cheng's hand. As the heavy ruler danced, it faintly possessed a repeated lingering attack. As it twined around, Bai Cheng's long spear did not have the opportunity to snake its way out.

“Huh?”

The moment Xiao Yan's ruler technique changed, a couple of exclamations suddenly sounded from the high platform and the judges' seats. Each of their faces were filled with surprise. Of course, it was little wonder that they would reveal these expressions because of this scene. Compared to Xiao Yan's earlier attack, which used big motions and completely relied on the method of using one blow to break ten others, this current ruler technique truly carried some skill. Moreover, this skill was extremely profound.

As Xiao Yan's opponent, Bai Cheng sensed the change in Xiao Yan's ruler technique the clearest. His expression immediately became much uglier. In the comparison between the two, the only thing that Bai Cheng could beat Xiao Yan in was his personal strength and the use of his tricky and sophisticated spear technique. However, the former was almost completely offset under Xiao Yan's abnormally strong Qi Method while the ruler technique that Xiao Yan currently displayed was not the least bit weaker than his spear technique. The two combined appeared to be pushing for an overwhelming victory in Xiao Yan's favor!

Bai Cheng's eyes widened angrily. There was a faint savageness hidden deep within his eyes. The long spear in his hand was just like a poison serpent that had been cornered, leaping randomly in all directions. However, it was ultimately tightly adhered to by that heavy bulky ruler, and could not shake the latter off no matter how he drew the spear. To use a spear technique to its full potential required some distance. Now that Xiao Yan had displayed his technique, the attack from the long spear had basically lost half of its sharpness.

Bai Cheng was entangled with Xiao Yan for another few minutes. His

eyes gradually reddened and the ferociousness in his eyes suddenly protruded out. He cried out sharply in his heart, "I'll go all out!"

As the cry sounded, Bai Cheng's hand abruptly struck the spear handle. The long spear shot out, shooting toward Xiao Yan's heart. This attack was merciless. If Xiao Yan were to be unluckily struck by it, it was likely that he would be killed on the spot.

Xiao Yan's expression was dark and cold. He shook his arm and the heavy ruler rotated back, appearing in front of him in an instant and blocking that long spear. The strength that was contained in the spear caused Xiao Yan to swiftly take two steps back.

Xiao Yan stabilized his footing and raised his head. He was surprised to discover that the expression of the current Bai Cheng had turned into a strange blood-red color.

Bai Cheng gave a savage smile to Xiao Yan. His voice was so thick that it appeared to have been transmitted from deep under ground, causing one's hair to stand erect.

"Don't think that only you know a secret technique to raise your strength!"

"Today, I will completely cripple you, you Little Bastard!"

# Chapter 561: Bloody Ground Eight Split

The face of Bai Cheng in the arena had suddenly become extremely blood-red. It attracted the attention of the people in the viewing gallery. Immediately, numerous people were surprised as private conversations sounded.

Xiao Yan's eyebrows were knit slightly. He could sense Bai Cheng's aura had suddenly become much more powerful. Moreover, the Dou Qi that writhed over him had clearly become at least twice as strong at this moment.

"Secret technique... it is unexpected that this fellow also practices one. However, its increase seems to be much weaker than the 'Skyfire Three Mysterious Change'. From the looks of the strength of his Dou Qi, it appears that it has merely raised his strength by one star. Moreover, from the looks of his expression, it is clear that it increases one's strength by stimulating the boiling of one's blood. This kind of method is one of the weaker types of secret techniques." Xiao Yan muttered softly. Normally speaking, secret techniques were differentiated from good and bad. Something like how he stimulated the 'Heavenly Flame' to increase his personal strength could be considered an excellent one while Bai Cheng's one stimulated the blood to borrow its strength could be considered a lousy one. Moreover, some even more vicious secret techniques might even leave behind harm to the user that was difficult to remove.

However, no matter whether it was an excellent one or a lousy one, a secret technique was an extremely rare thing. It could be a decisive factor during critical moments. In more serious cases, it could determine the victor in a battle.

A bloody aura writhed on Bai Cheng's face. A moment later, he slowly raised his eyes that were covered by the bloody aura. He stared at Xiao Yan in a dark manner as his hand held the long spear tightly. A pale-yellow Dou Qi that was doped with a bloody color spread down from his hand, wrapping his entire spear within it. Threads of blood-colored energy wandered indefinitely over it, much like many extremely tiny blood



snakes.

The long spear was raised and was pointed at Xiao Yan on the opposite side some distance away. The corner of Bai Cheng's mouth involuntarily parted into a ferocious smile as he sensed the powerful energy that was flowing unceasingly within his body. His laughter was hoarse, much like blades drawing past glass, causing the eardrums of some to feel a piercing pain.

Xiao Yan brows were knit without leaving a trace after he was locked onto by Bai Cheng's long spear. As the party involved, he was able to clearly sense that the former at this moment was different from how he was earlier.

"This kind of secret technique appears to leave some desirable areas." A thought flashed across Xiao Yan's heart. His eyes, which were staring intently at Bai Cheng, suddenly shrank. A silver-colored glow under his feet swiftly flashed and appeared. Following the flash of the silver glow, Xiao Yan's body instantly disappeared from its original spot.

The instant that Xiao Yan disappeared, a human figure that was covered by a bloody-yellow glow flashed and reached the spot in a ghost-like manner. The blood-colored long spear was like a blood-red lightning bolt that appeared without the slightest sound. Finally, it abruptly penetrated the ground where Xiao Yan had stood.

The fight that suddenly erupted within the arena merely happened in a split second. Other than a small number of people, most of the audience could only see a human figure reach its destination in a flash and a blood-red long spear that suddenly appeared.

"How fast..." Quite a number of people in the viewing gallery swallowed their saliva at this moment as they muttered in surprise. They clearly understood that if they were to receive Bai Cheng's ghost-like attack earlier, it was likely that they would only be able to sense it after the long spear had penetrated their body.

Xiao Yan's body surfaced over ten meters from where the blood-colored spear landed on the ground. His face carried a little surprise as he eyed Bai

Cheng who had appeared in the spot where he had been earlier. Bai Cheng was holding his blood-red long spear as he did so. After using that secret technique, it appeared that not only did Bai Cheng's strength greatly increase, but even his speed had also soared. If Xiao Yan did not possess an agility Dou Technique like the 'Three Thousand Lightning Movement', it was likely that it would not have been so easy to dodge that attack earlier.

“Bang!”

Bai Cheng raised his dark, cold face after his attack missed. He eyed Xiao Yan who was not far away as his hand shook abruptly. Immediately, the long spear trembled at an extremely fast speed. The tip of the spear lifted up. The rock ground that was penetrated escaped from being clamped down by the spear. Some rock fragments spiraled and shot toward Xiao Yan at that moment.

Xiao Yan's eyes narrowed. He took a small step back and raised the heavy ruler high above his head before immediately hacking it down. An invisible wind formed on the tip of the ruler, escaping from the latter an instant later and striking the rocks that were shot over with great speed into pieces. Pale-gray rock powder slowly scattered down.

“Chi!”

As the rock powder fell, a blood glow surfaced abruptly. The blood-colored long spear danced and formed numerous spear afterimages at that instant. Each spear afterimage contained a sharp killing intent that pierced toward all the fatal spots on Xiao Yan's body.

Xiao Yan sensed the sharp spear glow that was basically spread all over his body. His expression also changed a little. The trajectory of the waving heavy ruler in his hand changed once again. From the originally strong hacking motion to an unceasing tangled force that heavily collided with the numerous glowing spears.

“Ding! Ding!”

Sparks flew in all directions as the sound of metal colliding rang out. However, Xiao Yan's footsteps swiftly stepped back each time the long

spear collided with the heavy ruler. Threads of tiny crack lines also spread on the hard ground.

“Bang!”

Another confrontation between the spear and ruler occurred. Xiao Yan’s foot were violently stamped down and the ground was completely cracked. A green-colored flame flashed across the heavy ruler. Finally, it was carried by the heavy ruler, containing Xiao Yan’s full force as it heavily smashed violently toward the blood-colored spear that was moving in all directions!

“Chi, chi!”

Xiao Yan was finally not shaken back by the force in this collision. That wisp of green-colored flame was like a gluttonous beast. Any of the blood-colored spear glows that came into contact with it were instantly swallowed.

With the help of the green-colored flame, the heavy ruler destroyed the blood-colored spear glow that came from all directions as though the latter was weak and vulnerable. Following the blood-colored spear glow being forced back, the human figure hidden behind it immediately appeared in Xiao Yan’s gaze.

Four eyes exchanged looks with one another as the energy was annihilated. They both displayed an icy coldness as well as killing intent.

“Bloody Ground Eight Split!”

A dark, dense cry was suddenly emitted from Bai Cheng’s throat. As his voice sounded, his face, which was originally filled with a bloody color, instantly turned pale white. However, the long spear in his hands was enwrapped by a rich blood-colored energy. Traces of the bloody scent spread out from the body of the spear causing those who smelt it to feel disgusted.

The blood-colored glow on the long spear was restrained until it was frightening at this moment. A dark-bloody color dyed it until it appeared to have been made completely from blood.

Bai Cheng's hand trembled abruptly. Finally, a blood-red glow erupted from the tip of the spear in front of a countless number of shocked gazes in the viewing gallery. Eight blood-colored light arcs at least five feet in diameter shot out using an extremely strange route. If one were to carefully look at it, one would realize that these eight blood-colored light arcs coincidentally formed a cage shape, completely wrapping around all the escape paths of the person who was attacked.

Eight blood-colored light arcs carried a whirling wind sound as they drew past the arena. Eight deep gullies that were a foot wide appeared on the hard ground wherever they passed. Rock fragments shot in all directions. As the dust spread, the originally clean battle stage was destroyed until it was a complete mess.

Dust rose repeatedly. In merely the blink of an eye, it completely wrapped around Xiao Yan's position. Those eight blood-colored light arcs basically carried a sharp killing intent as they shot out violently and explosively toward that spot at the same time.

“Bang!”

The eight bloody arc shot toward the spot where Xiao Yan was at. Immediately, a thunder-like explosion sounded with a bang in the arena. Countless number of rock fragments shot out from the dust toward the viewing gallery, stirring up chaos.

The attack of the bloody arc was quite powerful and its destructive strength also caused people to be extremely surprised. This kind of attack would also be quite troublesome for an ordinary seven star Dou Ling to block. It was unexpected that Bai Cheng's attack would actually be this strong after he had used a secret technique.

Numerous gazes from the tall platform carried some shock as they eyed the eight blood-colored arcs with its extremely shocking force. An attack of this strength was something that even some of them would have difficulty handling.

“The ‘Bloody Ground Eight Split’ of Bai Cheng is quite a lot stronger than what it was before. Looks like that fellow is going to be out of luck.”

The feminine Yao Sheng glanced at the blood-colored arcs in the arena from the tall platform as he laughed coldly.

“It is best that he is killed on the spot.” A gloating look also surfaced on Liu Fei’s face by the side as she viciously cursed.

Liu Qing knit his brows. His gaze focused intently on the arena where dust was spread everywhere. A moment later, he shook his head and said faintly, “All of you have underestimated Xiao Yan. For some unknown reason, I keep getting an elusive feeling. In this Grand Competition, it is likely that in addition to having Lin Xiuya as my opponent, there might also be... Xiao Yan.”

The two people by his side immediately revealed stunned faces when they heard this. They did not expect that Liu Qing’s evaluation of Xiao Yan would actually be this high. Liu Fei muttered a few sentences and was extremely unwilling to see Liu Qing viewing the person that she disliked this highly. However, she did not dare to doubt the latter’s words due to his prestige. All she could do was to repeatedly curse Xiao Yan, wishing he would be defeated and become crippled.

“It seems there is no reaction? Don’t tell me...?” Yan Hao frowned slightly. His gaze stared intently at the dust filled region that Xiao Yan was at. Those eight bloody arcs that attacked were indeed extremely powerful. If Xiao Yan was careless, he might really be seriously injured.

The delicate hand which Han Yue used to hold the guardrail tightened. Her pretty eyes did not blink as they paused in the arena. Bai Cheng, who had used the ‘Bloody Ground Eight Split’ was already completely spent. If Xiao Yan could endure this attack, victory would definitely belong to him. If he was unable to...

Lin Xiuya narrowed his eyes. A moment later, he laughed suddenly as he spoke softly, “This fellow does indeed have quite a number of hidden cards...”

As Lin Xiuya’s voice sounded, the dust that had spread over the arena finally faded. Eventually, a human figure faintly appeared from within the dust under the focus of a countless number of gazes.

Bai Cheng's hand held the long spear and stood on the same spot. His expression was as pale as sheet. His secret technique was much weaker than Xiao Yan's 'Skyfire Three Mysterious Change' regardless of whether it was in terms of endurance, time, or other aspects. Therefore, after he had displayed his strongest Dou Skill, he had completely lost his fighting ability. At this moment, he could only pray that his attack was able to completely defeat Xiao Yan.

However, his hope finally came crashing down the moment a human figure faintly appeared within the dust. This was especially when that human figure was still emitting low and deep footstep sounds as he slowly walked out. Bai Cheng's heart sank increasingly deeper as a hopelessness surfaced on his face.

Under the focus of countless gazes from the viewing gallery, the human figure slowly stepped out from the dust filled region. Immediately, the temperature of the entire stadium turned hot...

When everyone saw the strange appearance of that human figure who had appeared, shock surfaced with it...

# Chapter 562: Green Fire Armor

A human figure slowly walked out from the dust-filled area. The eye-catching green-colored flame was the first thing to appear as an unusual heat covered the stadium.

The human figure which had appeared was basically completely wrapped within a green-colored flame. Upon closer inspection, the face of the human figure within the flame was completely blurred. However, from the vague outline of the figure, one could still identify that the person within the flame was Xiao Yan.

The green-colored flame at this moment was much richer and more ferocious compared to when Xiao Yan had displayed it during any other instance. The flame writhed. If one had sharp eyes, then one would be able to discover that the green-colored flame appeared to have agglomerated into an extremely hard green fire armor on Xiao Yan's body. Any attack would be turned into nothingness under this extremely hot temperature.

The large flame-armored person's footsteps were low and deep as he slowly walked out of the dust-filled area. The air gradually distorted following the movement of his footsteps.

The entire stadium was silent as they eyed the enormous green flame-armored person that had appeared in their sight. Although they were uncertain about what had occurred, the aura of the current Xiao Yan was much stronger than what it had been earlier. Even though they were so far apart, the people in the viewing gallery still sensed a blazing hot wave sweep over. It was difficult to imagine just how high the temperature was that one would have to face if one were to collide head on with that flame.

"Is this the 'Heavenly Flame' of this little fellow..." The old eyes of Elder Su flickered as he sat in the judges' section. It was a long while later before he muttered in surprise, "It is really unexpected that he is actually able to control the 'Heavenly Flame' so skillfully at such a young age. It really is incredible."

Although a 'Heavenly Flame' was considered rare, Su Qian naturally

understood it quite well given his experience and knowledge. Therefore, he also clearly understood just how overbearing and impertinent a 'Heavenly Flame' behaved. Attempting to tame it was as difficult as ascending to the heavens. Moreover, even after one tamed it, it was another thing to control it as if it were one's own arm. If one did not do it properly, a backlash might occur. Yet, the flame that Xiao Yan currently displayed was a flame condensed to its limit before finally being suppressed until it had turned into the shape of an armor. This kind of method had a harsh requirement toward one's level of control. He really did not expect that Xiao Yan would be able to perform such a feat at this age.

Su Qian had once befriended many alchemists whose refining skills were extraordinary. Although all of the flames that they used had remarkable backgrounds, they were considerably inferior when compared to a true 'Heavenly Flame'. Moreover, their degree of control over the flame did not exceed Xiao Yan by much. It should be known that the control of a 'Heavenly Flame' was at least ten times more difficult compared to other flames. Moreover, most of these people were renowned alchemist grandmasters on the continent. Xiao Yan, on the other hand, was still just an ordinary unknown little fellow at this moment, despite having quite a great talent.

Coagulating flame into armor. This could be considered quite a high level flame controlling method even within those special 'Flame Controlling Techniques' of the alchemist department. The harsh degree of flame control that this thing required was sufficient to cause most of the alchemists to be unable to catch up to him.

Of course, this coagulation of flame into armor was not something that Xiao Yan had just suddenly comprehended after an idea suddenly struck him. This was merely an extremely simple process that was similar to that of the Dou Qi Armor of a Da Dou Shi. It was just that the degree of hardness of this type of armor that was agglomerated from a flame was mostly determined by the flame control of the user and the strength of the flame essence. Due to Xiao Yan possessing a powerful Spiritual Strength



that even caused Yao Lao to be astonished, there was naturally no problem with his control ability. As for the flame essence... what other flame was even more ferocious than a 'Heavenly Flame'? Hence, the defensive strength of this flame armor, coagulated from the 'Green Lotus Core Flame,' would likely reach quite a frightening degree.

Lin Xiuya, Liu Qing, and the others on the tall platform revealed stunned faces as they eyed the enormous green flame-armored person in the arena. At this moment, they felt that it was a little difficult to handle even given the strength of both of them. The green flame that covered that armor was undoubtedly an extremely terrifying flame. Although they had never personally come into contact with it, they were still able to sense that it was likely that they would be in a big trouble should they touch it...

Since one could not touch it, one could merely use Dou Qi attacks. However, merely doing so would likely have difficulty obtaining much of any effect on this tortoise shell like armor. This could be seen from the powerful 'Bloody Ground Eight Split' that Bai Cheng had displayed earlier since it was unable to cause much damage to appear on the armor. This thing had a defensive strength that would leave one stunned.

One could unceremoniously say that now that Xiao Yan possessed this green flame armor, which one could not physically touch, yet it possessed a fighting defensive strength, his fighting ability had soared greatly. This was because even Liu Qing and the others could not think of any method to deal with it within a short time when faced with this kind of tough defense.

The large green flame-armored person in the arena gave a sudden slight tremble while the entire stadium descended into silence. The flame slowly withdrew, and the green-colored armor that hid under the flame also swiftly faded away. A moment later, it completely disappeared. Once again revealing Xiao Yan to everyone's gazes.

Xiao Yan's clothes appeared slightly tattered at this moment. His face was also pale. However, his dark-black eyes were filled with a pleasant surprise that was difficult to hide. He had merely acted at will earlier. It was unexpected that he was really able to suppress the 'Green Lotus Core

Flame' until it turned into the shape of an armor. Moreover, the defensive strength of this green fire armor had far exceeded his expectations. This thing could basically be said to give him the power of an absolute defense...

However, the coagulation of the flame armor greatly exhausted his Dou Qi and Spiritual Strength. With Xiao Yan's current ability, he could merely maintain it for less than five minutes. From this, one could tell that this flame armor was like a bottomless pit that swallowed Dou Qi and Spiritual Strength.

"However, it could be considered an unexpected delight. It should be able to have the unique effect of protecting my life at critical moments." A satisfied smile surfaced on Xiao Yan's pale-white face. He slowly raised his head and eyed the white-faced Bai Cheng, who was holding the long spear in his hand. Xiao Yan's smile gradually became cold. His grip on the Heavy Xuan Ruler in his hand abruptly tightened. During that attack earlier, Xiao Yan was clearly able to sense that the other party had really intended to strike a killing blow. Although he would be able to display the 'Three Thousand Lightning Movement' at the last instant to dodge that attack even if he could not coagulate the flame armor, the killing intent of this fellow caused Xiao Yan's expression to become completely cold.

The corner of Bai Cheng's mouth twitched a little as he appeared to have sensed the dark coldness on Xiao Yan's face. His pair of eyes were still vicious and ruthless as he mustered the little remaining Dou Qi in his body.

The Dou Qi within Xiao Yan's body followed the route of his Qi Method as it circulated swiftly. After which, it unceasingly absorbed the surrounding natural energy. Currently, the 'Flame Mantra' was merely at the Middle Xuan level. However, its speed of absorbing energy and manufacturing Dou Qi was something that even a High Xuan Qi Method was inferior to. Moreover, by coordinating the refinement with the 'Green Lotus Core Flame', the rate of recovery of the Dou Qi within Xiao Yan's body was likely something that no one could beat within the same class. Only if there was a big gap between their strengths, discrepancies might

occur.

As the two of them faced each other once again, the atmosphere within the arena returned to becoming tense with the feeling of daggers drawn.

“Roar!”

A low roar was emitted from Bai Cheng’s throat. His eyes contained remnants of the bloody-redness from before as his hand tightened its grip on the long spear. An instant later, his body leaned forward. His hand suddenly smashed violently on the handle of the spear. Immediately, the blood-colored long spear drew across the sky like a bloody glow similar to the color of the sunset, carrying a sharp sound of rushing wind as it shot explosively toward Xiao Yan’s head!

The blood-colored long spear was swiftly magnified in those dark-black eyes. Just as it was about to enter within a ten meter radius of Xiao Yan, the latter abruptly stomped on the ground. Immediately, an extremely deep green-colored flame shot out explosively from his finger.

The speed of the green flame was not fast. However, its strength caused one’s face to be shocked. The blood-colored spear tip had just collided with it when the spear tip which was made of metal swiftly turned into a molten form in front of everyone’s eyes. It released a ‘chi chi’ sound as it fell to the ground, leaving behind a small impression on the ground.

The spear pole followed soon after the tip of the spear, turning into molten metal before eventually the rest of the spear handle... consequently, a long spear made from metal was incinerated by an unremarkable looking green-colored flame, and eventually turned into a pool of molten metal under everyone’s gazes. This scene caused quite a number of people to feel a chill over their bodies. Would it not result in them not even being able to leave behind their ashes if they were to touch this flame?

Bai Cheng was dull as he eyed the long spear that had completely turned into molten metal less than three meters from Xiao Yan’s face. His body immediately began to shake. He had already displayed all of his tactics, but ultimately the bastard opposite him still did not fall...

Bai Cheng's eyes stared intently at Xiao Yan. When he suddenly realized that the latter's eyes were dark, cold eyes filled with killing intent, goosebumps suddenly rose all over his body. A terror once again festered from deep within his heart.

"This bastard wants to kill me?" A shocking thought flashed in his heart. Bai Cheng hurriedly raised his hand to shout that he admitted defeat.

However, the instant that his hand moved, Xiao Yan's feet gently stomped down. A low and deep thunderous roar sounded in the arena. Immediately, everyone could sense a silver glow flash across their eyes before a black-colored human figure appeared in front of Bai Cheng.

"Since you wish to kill me, naturally I should reciprocate the feeling too." Xiao Yan parted his mouth and smiled as he eyed the terrified face that was within close proximity. A savageness shot into Bai Cheng's eyes, much like that of a demon.

Xiao Yan's body suddenly paused. His entire body was half an inch from the ground as his body took on a whirling form in mid-air. His five fingers were tightly clenched together as he borrowed the rotating force of his body and struck out abruptly while carrying a low and deep sonic boom!

"Octane Blast!"

The dark, cold cry caused Bai Cheng's body to stiffen instantly. A fist that was wrapped by an incomparably ferocious force was swiftly magnified in his eyes...

"Bang!"

A low and deep muffled sound suddenly resounded. The entire audience eyed Bai Cheng, who was like a sandbag, as he was dragged against the ground. He formed a shallow scar that was a couple dozen meters long on the hard ground before he slid out of the arena and collided against a wall. No one knew if he was dead or alive. After which, everyone turned their heads and eyed the black-robed young man who had maintained his stance of having thrown a punch. A chill involuntarily seeped out from their bones...

# Chapter 563: Liu Qing's Appearance

The entire stadium was silent as everyone eyed Bai Cheng who had collided heavily against the wall. No one knew if he was dead or alive. Quite a number of people could sense the degree of ferociousness behind Xiao Yan's punch earlier despite being a great distance away. They did not dare to imagine whether they could still keep their little lives if that punch were to solidly connect with their body.

Xiao Yan slowly straightened his body within the arena. His tightly clenched fist trembled slightly as a trickle of blood followed the tip of his finger and dripped down. Although that attack earlier was indeed ferocious, it also caused his fist to feel some pain after being shaken by the reverse force. However, this was undoubtedly many times better compared to the ninety-percent of strength that Bai Cheng had to endure.

Xiao Yan raised his head. His gaze swept over the various expressions of everyone on the tall platform. After letting out a soft cough, he turned his gaze toward Su Qian on the judges' seats.

Su Qian glanced at Bai Cheng below, who no one knew was dead or alive, after sensing Xiao Yan gaze which had shot over. He smiled bitterly and shook his head. After receiving such a heavy blow, it was likely that Bai Cheng would be left with an injury that would be difficult to fully heal even if he was lucky enough to keep his little life this time around. Su Qian had nothing to say in regards to this. After all, all of the attacks that Bai Cheng used against Xiao Yan earlier were basically all fatal moves. He only had himself to blame for having such an ending.

Su Qian exchanged gazes with the few Elders beside him before waving to some of the instructors maintaining safety within the arena. Immediately, two people flashed forward. They picked up Bai Cheng, who was lying on the ground without moving, and carried him away.

"Cough. Xiao Yan wins this match." Su Qian's eyes looked at Xiao Yan in the arena. Immediately, his voice became deeper as he spoke, "However, I hope that everyone does not use such heavy attacks in the next match."

Those whose tactics are overboard will have their qualification to participate in the competition revoked.”

Su Qian’s words obviously contained a warning. After all, the students who could enter the ‘Strong Ranking’ basically belonged to the top within the Inner Academy. It would be quite a great loss if anything were to happen to a student of such talent. Moreover, some of the students had quite strong backgrounds. Although these backgrounds did not have much of a deterrent effect within the academy, the factions behind them would definitely be displeased if something were to happen to these students within the academy. At that time, it would be troublesome if they were to run to the Inner Academy crying and shouting.

Xiao Yan smiled and nodded. His toes pressed gently on the ground as his body rushed to the tall platform. After which, he ignored the numerous gazes from the surroundings and landed on his seat.

“What a useless person. He is actually unable to defeat Xiao Yan even like this.” Liu Fei immediately snorted coldly and softly cursed Bai Cheng’s inability to take out Xiao Yan as she eyed him return to his seat without appearing to have suffered any serious injuries.

“Yao Sheng, you better not disgrace yourself if you meet him.” After cursing, Liu Fei turned her head and spoke to Yao Sheng by her side who was staring at Xiao Yan.

Yao Sheng was slightly startled. His expression was initially a little unnatural before he immediately gave a sinister smile as he nodded and said, “Fei-er, you can rest assured that as long as I am able to meet him, I will definitely seek justice for you.”

“You should not look down on Xiao Yan. Otherwise, you will also end up like Bai Cheng, losing when he was not expecting to. The green-colored flame armor that Xiao Yan displayed earlier has an extremely shocking defensive strength.” Liu Qing knit his brows and spoke in a deep voice.

Yao Sheng smiled and nodded. However, there was still a dark coldness and disdain between his brows.

.....

“Xiao Yan ge-ge, are you alright?” Xun Er held Xiao Yan’s hand and asked in a concerned manner. She was able to clearly sense that the latter’s breathing was a little rough and heavy. Clearly, his strength had been greatly exhausted in the battle earlier.

“I’m fine. It is just that the flame armor exhausts too much Dou Qi. I’ll be fine after resting for a while.” Xiao Yan took out an ‘Energy Recovery Pill’ from within his storage ring and stuffed it into his mouth as he smiled while shaking his head.

Xun Er’s pretty eyes studied Xiao Yan’s face, only to sigh in relief when she saw the sleek redness that gradually surged over it. Her gaze turned toward the next match that had just begun and softly said, “It is really unexpected that Bai Cheng actually used such tactics. That ‘Bloody Ground Eight Split’ is likely a Middle Xuan Dou Technique.”

“That’s right. Moreover that secret technique which raised his strength is not an ordinary one. It really was beyond my expectations that he had something like that.” Xiao Yan smacked his lips and said.

“Ke ke, Bai Cheng and Bai Shan do have some background. Their clan may not be very prominent in the entire Dou Qi continent, but they can be considered a second tier faction. If one were just discussing strength, even the three great clans of the Jia Ma Empire are slightly inferior to them. I think that this secret technique is something that is secretly passed on within their clan.” Xun Er smiled as she spoke.

Xiao Yan nodded slightly. Due to the special rules, no matter what kind of background one had, it would not provide any sense of superiority for that person within the Inner Academy. Therefore, it was possible that the faction behind any random person that was picked could be quite great.

“From the looks of it, I myself might be the kind who is considered the weakest because I am alone, right?” Xiao Yan suddenly laughed bitterly as he mocked himself in his heart. He did not have much of a background. Not only did the Xiao clan not have much strength within the Jia Ma Empire, but it was being chased and killed until few people remained because it had offended the Misty Cloud Sect. His only support was

himself.

“Xiao Yan ge-ge alone is much more effective than any other faction. A tier five alchemist would be welcomed with a smile even if the other party is an elite Dou Huang. Who would dare say that you are weak because you are alone?” Xun Er’s lovely, delicate hand gently held Xiao Yan’s palm as she replied with a soft gentle smile.

Xiao Yan was startled when he heard this and immediately laughed out loud in a carefree manner. He had actually forgotten his most important identity. As his palm patted Xun Er’s head, he jokingly said, “However, even though I am a tier five alchemist, it is likely that I am nothing in the eyes of the faction behind Xun Er.”

“But Xiao Yan ge-ge is still young. There have not been many tier five alchemists at such an age in the continent.” Xun Er smiled as she responded.

Xiao Yan smiled. He crossed his legs on the spacious seat and slowly shut his eyes. His mind sank and intruded into his body, adjusting his somewhat tired condition caused by his over exhaustion.

Xun Er quietly eyed Xiao Yan’s calm face. She muttered to herself within her heart, “Xiao Yan ge-ge, I believe that you will become a truly strong person the next time we meet...”

.....

There was still an endless stream of fights after Xiao Yan. Moreover the degree of fierceness even surpassed that of the fight between Xiao Yan and Bai Cheng earlier. During this time, quite a number of people in the top ten of the ‘Strong Ranking’ had shown themselves. That kind of powerful strength caused exclamations to sound repeatedly in the stadium.

It was finally Wu Hao’s turn to appear after the competition had progressed until it was halfway through. Compared to some of the exciting fights earlier, this fellow’s victory was quite relaxing. The strength of that one star Dou Ling may surpass Wu Hao, but his fighting experience was far inferior when compared to the latter. Hence, the fight



had merely lasted less than ten minutes before that one star Dou Ling had an opening which was caught by Wu Hao due to his carelessness. He was defeated in one blow.

Xiao Yan shook his head, feeling neither able to laugh nor cry as he eyed Wu Hao's face which was filled with a lack of enjoyment as the latter returned to the tall platform. This fellow was still not satisfied after winning the round so easily. Would this fellow be happy only if he became extremely exhausted just like myself?

.....

“Number thirty-seven!”

The number that had suddenly sounded in the stadium immediately caused the entire place to abruptly quieten. After being dull for an instant, numerous gazes suddenly turned before finally stopping on that tall, large man with a face as deep as water.

The man sat quietly, appearing to sense the focus of all the gazes around him. He slowly opened his eyes and a sharp tyrannical aura suddenly surged out just like the awakening of a snake that had gone into hibernation.

Tyrant Spear Liu Qing!

Ever since that year when he had been defeated by Lin Xiu Ya's hands, this tyrannous and mighty looking man had never lost once within the Inner Academy. That record of dozens of continuous wins within the Fighting Arena caused a countless number of students to be filled with both respect and fear.

Liu Qing stood up and slowly walked forward. As his footsteps moved, the tyrannical aura on his body grew increasingly powerful. Some of the strong people, who were leaning closer, even sensed that their breathing had become rough and heavy.

Liu Fei's eyes revealed some adoration as she eyed the heavy back that was the focus of attention of the entire place in front of her. Ever since she was a child, she had never seen Liu Qing admitting defeat to any

opponent. Even those people with outstanding talent like Lin Xiu Ya would only cause him to be slightly worried. Of course... she had automatically excluded Zi Yan in this. That was because that little girl could not be classified as normal.

Liu Fei suddenly glanced at Xiao Yan a short distance away as she had this thought in her heart. The corner of her mouth was lifted into a sarcastic arc, "No matter how high you jump, you are merely just a leaping clown in elder cousin's eyes!"

Xiao Yan naturally did not know what Liu Fei was thinking in her heart. Even if he did know, it was likely that he would be unconcerned. Any spoken words were pallid explanations. Only by thoroughly sparing would there be an effective result.

Xiao Yan leaned against his chair. His gaze paused on Liu Qing who slowly walked forward. If one did not mention anything else, Xiao Yan viewed this man extremely seriously. An incomparable tyrant. This was the best description for him.

In his heart Xiao Yan thought that if Liu Qing was given time to grow, it was likely that no one would disagree that he had the qualifications and the talent to become a giant who would shake the Dou Qi continent in the future.

"Bang!"

Liu Qing came to the side of the guardrail before stomping his feet on the ground. His body was like a metal pagoda as it abruptly fell from the sky before heavily landing on the ground. His impact was great in everyone's eyes. The hard ground in the area where he landed was shattered into a pile of powder. Countless crack lines swiftly spread out...

Liu Qing stood straight and hugged his chest with his arms. Under the shine of the sun, the dark-black heavy spear on his back reflected a dense, cold glow. With this outfit, along with that tyrant aura, it was likely that a person who did not have a strong mental fortitude would lose even before fighting.

Xiao Yan laughed softly as he watched Liu Qing in the arena pressuring

others with his aura. A fiery hot fighting intent slowly surged within his dark-black eyes. Among those of his age group, it was likely that only Lin Xiu Ya and Liu Qing would truly cause him to form a fear and solemnness in his heart.

“He is indeed not a bad opponent.”

# Chapter 564: Great Rift Coffin Splitting Claw

The entire stadium was completely silent as they eyed Liu Qing who was standing as straight as a spear rod in the arena. This situation was something that even Zi Yan had not enjoyed when she had appeared earlier. Although she may be the true number one seat on the 'Strong Ranking', her reputation within the Inner Academy was incomparable to Liu Qing, Lin Xiuya, and the others because she had rarely exposed herself.

Liu Qing quietly stood in the arena. He ignored the various gazes around him. His eyes stayed shut as his hands hugged his chest, waiting for his opponent to appear.

"Chi!"

A pale-blue human figure suddenly flashed onto the stage under the focus of everyone. The person who came forth was a young man wearing blue clothes. He was around twenty-four to twenty-five years old and his face could be considered handsome. However, his face was currently covered with bitterness. Other than a few countable people within this Inner Academy, it was likely that anyone else who picked Liu Qing as their opponent would also be this dispirited.

Ordinarily speaking, by meeting Liu Qing in the first round of drawing lots, one could be said to have completely lost the chance of entering the top ten. The strength of this blue-clothed young man was also not weak since he was ranked in the middle of the 'Strong Ranking'. However, his chances of victory against Liu Qing, who had half his foot in the Dou Wang class, were basically so small that they were negligible. Not only were the students outside of the arena clearly aware of this fact, but even the blue-clothed, young man himself also knew that it was highly likely that he would lose this match.

"All the competitors have arrived. Let the match begin." Su Qaian eyed the two people facing each other in the arena as he waved his hand and spoke faintly.

Following the sound of Su Qian's voice, the gazes of everyone instantly became fiery-red. All the gazes were filled with anticipation.

Although the blue-clothed, young man did not hold much hope for victory, he was still an expert who could be ranked on the 'Strong Ranking' no matter how one put it. He was still in possession of some mental fortitude. Hence, after Su Qian announced the start of the match, he slowly suppressed the panic in his heart. His gaze solemnly watched Liu Qing on the opposite side. With a sway of his hand, a pale-blue longsword appeared. The body of the sword had strange faint watery lines on it. The watery lines appeared to be moving anytime it shook, giving it a strange appearance.

With the longsword in his hand, the aura of the blue-clothed young man had become much more real. Waves of pale-blue Dou Qi swiftly surged out of his body. Finally, it moved along his arm, and wrapped the longsword within it. In an instant, the longsword emitted the faint sound of rolling sea waves.

Appearing to have sensed the gradually agglomerated aura of the other party, Liu Qing finally opened his eyes slowly and swept them indifferently over the other party. He nodded slightly. Fortunately, the courage of the other party was not as low as he had initially thought.

"Senior Liu Qing, Lan Yan will seek your guidance!" The blue-clothed, young man pointed the longsword straight at Liu Qing as he spoke in a deep voice.

Liu Qing twisted his head slightly. His body trembled a little as a wave of bone cracking sounds immediately sounded within his body. Both of his hands stretched out equally. His palms were larger than an ordinary person's hand. They curled slowly, much like sharp claws.

The two hands clawed in an alternating manner in front of him. A couple of invisible strikes flashed through the air before finally striking the ground, leaving behind shallow scars.

Xiao Yan's pupils, which intently observed at Liu Qing from the high platform, dilated slightly. He realized that Liu Qing had acted randomly

earlier, and had not even used a single thread of Dou Qi. He had completely relied on just his physical strength earlier...

“This fellow’s physical body is actually also this strong. He is indeed a powerful opponent.” Xiao Yan sighed softly. The difficulty of tempering one’s physical body was much harder than training Dou Qi. If Xiao Yan did not use numerous medicinal ingredients to supplement his bodily strength, it was likely that he would have difficulty possessing his current physical strength. Currently, however, the physical strength that Liu Qing displayed did not appear to be any weaker than his own.

As Xiao Yan exclaimed, that young man in the arena, called Lan Yan, took the lead in attacking. His power was also not weak. From how Xiao Yan look at it, it appeared that he at least possessed the strength of a four star Dou Ling. At this level, one would belong among the top even within the Inner Academy. Currently. He pounced with his entire strength as his powerful Dou Qi surged over his body like the waves of the sea. In addition, the slight sound of rolling waves slowly spread and was transmitted into everyone’s ears.

Lan Yan clearly knew how troublesome his opponent was. Therefore, he did not hold anything back right from the start. His Dou Qi and speed were unleashed to the limit the moment his body had moved.

That Lan Yan flashed and crossed the short distance of dozens of meters in an instant. The longsword in his hand was wrapped in a rich blue-colored Dou Qi. It carried moist air as it violently pierced toward Liu Qing. The sharp sword glow appeared exceptionally dense and cold after being contaminated by the mist.

“Three Shark Thorn!”

A low cry was emitted from Lan Yan’s throat. The blue-colored glow suddenly soared, and a faint ferocious sharp head surfaced. Its enormous mouth had a fishy smell that carried some moisture while charging explosively toward Liu Qing!

This attack from Lan Yan was basically the strongest attack that he could display within a short period of time. Although the water affinity did

not specialize in attack, with the coordination of such powerful Dou Qi, it was able to create the destructive force of a bullet regardless of how gentle water is known to be.

As Lan Yan's longsword pierced out, the entire arena was covered in a moist air. Two clusters of tiny water logs even formed under his feet.

Liu Qing's expression still did not ripple much despite facing this extremely ferocious attack of Lan Yan. His eyes stared intently at the longsword that was swiftly becoming enlarged in his eyes. His hands, however, slowly curled into an extremely strange arc.

"Hei!"

The attacking distance was covered in the blink of an eye. Lan Yan let out a low cry as the longsword in his hand pierced out. A blue-colored glow suddenly agglomerated into a ferocious shark shape. It widened its savage mouth, and bit toward Liu Qing's head.

"Chi!"

Liu Qing eyed the ferocious shark sword glow that swarmed over explosively in an indifferent manner. A pale-gold color suddenly surged onto his curled claw-shaped hands. His right hand abruptly extended, and collided with that ferocious shark sword glow in a lightning-like manner!

The instant the two collided, Liu Qing's hand claw changed into a strange arc. His fingers bent and curled and suddenly clipped violently. That thread of ferocious sword glow was firmly wedged between his fingers.

"Break!"

A stern cry was emitted. The pale-golden glow soared on Liu Qing's palm, and that sword glow was immediately smushed until it collapsed and disappeared.

"Shua, shua!"

When the first sword glow was broken, Lan Yan's expression immediately changed. He hurriedly shook his hand and more two sword

glows shot out explosively. The two sword glows still took the shape of a shark but their strength was increasingly stronger, such that the third sword glow was a full three times stronger than the first!

This kind of Dou Technique where each blow was increasingly stronger than the previous one would likely not be one with a low rank.

“Great Rift Coffin Splitting Claw!”

Liu Qing narrowed his eyes. His hands that were curled into a strange arc abruptly shot out. As the two claw-like hands rotated strangely, they once again firmly grabbed onto the two ferocious sword glows and immediately shattered them.

The three fierce shark sword glows that would be enough to defeat an ordinary four star Dou Ling were broken by Liu Qing in such an easy manner. Even with Lan Yan’s mental fortitude, he was instantly dumbstruck. This kind of match was basically one that was of a completely different class.

“The match is over.” The instant Lan Yan became dumbstruck, a faint voice was suddenly emitted from Liu Qing’s mouth. All the pores of the former stood straight as he sensed a wind instantly move close to his body. Liu Qing slightly pushed forward as an incomparably ferocious aura surged out, completely destroying the Dou Qi protecting Lan Yan’s body.

“Grug!”

Lan Yan’s face turned white. A mouthful of fresh blood was spat out. His body dragged along the ground, and was violently knocked out of the arena.

The arena was completely silent as everyone eyed Lan Yan who spat out blood and rolled out of the arena. Numerous sounds of people inhaling cold air arose. Many people only saw that Lan Yan’s earlier attack had completely wrapped around Liu Qing. It was really unexpected that in the blink of an eye, the sharp attack had been completely eliminated. Lan Yan was utterly defeated... many people had a fog over their head in the face of such an ending.



TL: Were confused about the ending

“What a strange claw technique.” Xiao Yan’s expression was completely serious as he eyed the pair of large palms from the tall platform. Even he had to say that the attack by Lan Yan earlier was not bad. However, those three sword glows that came one after another with increasing strength were completely received by the bare-handed Liu Qing. They were even shattered. This technique really caused people to be shocked.

“Liu Qing has two ultimate moves. One is the ‘Mountain Splitting Spear’, and the other is the ‘Great Rift Coffin Splitting Claw’. This claw technique is a High Xuan Dou Technique. However, in Liu Qing’s hands, it even has a strength that is comparable to a Di class Dou Technique. This is because he has honed this Dou Technique for nearly twenty years. It would not be surprising he had practiced it until he had reached the pinnacle.” A soft laughter suddenly sounded beside Xiao Yan. The latter turned around and realized that it was Lin Xiuya who had unknowingly arrived.

“He is indeed very strong.” Xiao Yan was amazed as he nodded. He viewed Liu Qing much higher in his heart. This fellow was indeed extremely troublesome.

“Ke ke, Senior Lin is able to defeat Liu Qing who possesses two ultimate skills. I think that your strength should be even greater.” Xiao Yan turned his head and smiled as he spoke to Lin Xiuya.

Lin Xiuya smiled and shook his head as he said, “Back then, I was merely lucky to have defeated him. I wonder if I will still have that luck this time around. This fellow’s toughness and talent is something that causes even me to be amazed.” As he spoke to this point, his gaze shifted to Xiao Yan, he then continued with a smile, “If you were to use all your tactics, I think that even Liu Qing or me would likely have a difficult time winning against you should we end up fighting.”

“Senior Lin is overestimating me.”

Xiao Yan smiled and shook his head. His eyebrows were suddenly lifted. His gaze slowly turned back to the arena, only to see that the metal-pagoda-like battle god’s sharp eyes were firmly locked onto the two of

them. As the latter's eyes moved, the gazes of the entire stadium moved with him and instantly stopped on both Xiao Yan and Lin Xiuya.

Everyone in the viewing gallery felt uncertain when they discovered that Liu Qing's gaze had basically wrapped Xiao Yan within it. It was nothing for Lin Xiuya to be viewed this seriously given his strength. On the other hand, Xiao Yan may be considered to be the strongest dark horse in the Inner Academy, but there should still be a gap between him and those people like Lin Xiuya, who had true strength.

The three gazes ignored the surrounding ones as they faced each other from a distance. A fighting intent involuntarily brewed and surged within their chests.

# Chapter 565: Second Round

This match of Liu Qing were undoubtedly one of the few exciting fights in this competition. However, given his strength, a match this standard did not cause others to feel overly surprised.

After Liu Qing, there were quite a number of experts who made their appearance one after another. Among them, the one that garnered the most attention was undoubtedly the appearance of Lin Xiuya. However, his match caused everyone to be neither able to laugh nor cry. This was because his opponent never appeared. Under the pressure of facing the number two on the 'Strong Ranking', he chose to admit defeat and leave. Therefore, Lin Xiuya had become the person who had the easiest time advancing. This also caused Liu Qing, Xiao Yan, and the others who wanted to observe Lin Xiuya's tactics beforehand to feel somewhat disappointed.

The twenty-five matches on the first day lasted from morning until night before it was finally declared to have ended in front of the countless numbers of gazes that did not seem to enjoy it sufficiently. Although there were some competitors who did not display their strength well, the 'Strong Ranking' was ultimately the competition with the highest standards in the Inner Academy regardless of how one put it. Exciting fights between the strong were sufficient to cause the others to exclaim in amazement.

Moreover, everyone knew that the truly exciting fights were not these elimination matches in this first round. Instead, they were the fights in the second and third day! After today's elimination round, there were only twenty-five people who remained. Whether it was because of their luck that they reached this step or by other means, there certainly were no ordinary people among them. A fight at this level naturally held a degree of excitement and fiery passion that was far from what the first day's elimination matches could compare with!

Therefore, all the audience members adopted an unsatisfied feeling along with anticipation as they waited for the even more exciting exchanges on the second day!

.....

As night descended, the Inner Academy, which had experienced a day of noisiness and great passion, finally recovered its calm. Bits and pieces of light scattered around the enormous academy and were extremely eye-catching in these mountains.

The pale moonlight scattered into a quiet room through the window, and landed on the face of Xiao Yan who was seated cross-legged in it. At this moment, the latter had his eyes closed. His breathing was long and slow as the threads of tiny energy from his surroundings were absorbed into his body along with his breathing. After undergoing some refinement, they added a little brick and mortar on the great undertaking of advancing one's strength.

Xiao Yan's eyes moved slightly after the training had continued for nearly two hours. They slowly opened, and a mottled breath that was restrained in his mouth for a long time was exhaled.

As the mottled breath was exhaled, a layer of pale glow immediately surfaced over Xiao Yan's expression. The pale-whiteness that had formed from the intense fight during the day had completely disappeared at this moment.

Xiao Yan sensed the surging Dou Qi flowing within his body and smiled. That plan of Bai Cheng who wanted to go all out and cause Xiao Yan to lose the matches later on was dashed. With the mysterious effect of his 'Flame Mantra' along with the collaboration of various medicinal pills, it was not overly difficult for him to fully heal himself within a short amount of time as long as he had not received any kind of serious injuries.

"It is likely that the competition tomorrow will be even more dangerous than the one today." Xiao Yan mused and muttered. Other than Wu Hao and very few others, those who could enter the top twenty-five were all undoubtedly truly strong people. These people were much stronger than Bai Cheng.

"However, that 'Great Rift Coffin Splitting Claw' of Liu Qing really possessed a frightening might. If I am to really fight him, I'm afraid that

my 'Octane Blast' would not be able to catch up to that technique." Xiao Yan tightly clenched his five fingers and sighed softly, "Although the both of them are of the High Xuan class, he had merely practiced 'Octane Blast' for two to three years. Liu Qing, on the other hand, had honed his skill for close to twenty years. How were the two comparable? Moreover, Liu Qing's personal strength far exceeded his. If he were to compete with the 'Great Rift Coffin Splitting Claw', Xiao Yan could only seek temporary shelter from it.

The glow in Xiao Yan's eyes flickered. A moment later, it suddenly became ruthless as he ferociously muttered to himself, "Who cares. I will go all out no matter whom I meet. I must occupy a spot among the top ten!"

.....

In a small quiet room not far from Xiao Yan's room, a subtle lovely figure stood beautifully under the moonlight. An old man stood with his hands hanging by his side behind her.

"Xiao-jie, the one month of time is up. Aren't you going to leave?" The silent atmosphere continued for a moment before that old man raised his head. That face was naturally that of Ling Ying who had been shadowing Xun Er.

The lovely figure trembled without being noticed. A long while later, she let out a distant sigh. "Let's wait for another few days. I will be able to leave with my heart at ease once Xiao Yan ge-ge has successfully obtained a spot in the top ten of the Grand Competition."

Ling Ying helplessly nodded. However, he did not say anything else. His body twisted, and he turned into a shadow which disappeared into the darkness.

The young lady did not appear to have sensed the disappearance of the old man behind her. She still stood in front of the window like a stone statue. Her pretty eyes were filled with emotions as they passed through the window and stopped at a room not far away. There was still a faint light remaining in that place.

There were many people who were having a sleepless night tonight.

.....

The next day came extremely slowly amid the anticipation of a countless number of people.

When the first thread of the morning sun scattered down from the skyline, the quiet Inner Academy was once again replaced by a heated atmosphere. Many students ate their breakfast in a simple fashion before forming groups and rushing to the arena.

The enormous arena was swiftly filled within a short two hours. A noisy fiery passion, similar to yesterday's atmosphere, echoed in the sky while carrying various different tones.

All the Elders took their seats in succession half an hour after entering the stadium. After the First Elder Su Qian took his seat, the second day of the competition was announced to have finally begun.

"Due to the elimination round yesterday, there are only twenty-five competitors remaining. Therefore, we need everyone to draw lots once again." Su Qian's laughed from the judges' section. His voice reverberated clearly beside everyone's ear, "This time around, however, there will be an excess of one person. Hence, there will be only twelve matches today. The last person will advance unconditionally."

Su Qian's words gave rise to a commotion in the viewing gallery. Advance unconditionally? This seemed a little too easy, no? If someone had good luck, would they not be able to directly enter the top thirteen?

"Ke ke, this unconditional advancement is likely to have an extremely great attraction to many people. However, for the sake of fairness, our Elder's Council has already held a discussion. This spot will be given to Zi Yan." Su Qian spoke with a smile.

As Su Qian's words sounded, a commotion broke out in the viewing gallery once again. Those competitors on the high platform, however, nodded their heads slightly. In any case, this little monster would have no problem advancing. If this spot was given to her, they would be lucky

enough to avoid meeting her in this round.

“Does any competitor has any objection to this?” Su Qian’s gaze turned to the high platform and asked.

Everyone shook their head in unison. That orderly manner caused everyone in the viewing gallery to be stunned.

“Ke ke, since that is the case, let’s begin drawing lots.” Su Qian smiled and nodded toward the bamboo cylinder on the stone table.

Hearing this everyone on the stage immediately rushed over and sequentially picked out a bamboo stick from the bamboo cylinder.

Seven, Xiao Yan randomly glanced at the number on his bamboo stick before he immediately followed everyone else to the high platform, and quietly waited for the battle that would follow.

“The first match of the second round of the ‘Strong Ranking’ Grand Competition, number three! Those with the red bottom number three and blue bottom number three, please get into the arena!” Su Qian waved his hand, and cried out when he saw that everyone had finished drawing lots.

As Su Qian’s cry sounded, two human figures immediately flashed down from the high platform. Powerful auras instantly spread over the arena.

Xiao Yan’s gaze paused in the arena. After hearing Wu Hao introduce them by his side, Xiao Yan had some understanding of these two people in the arena. One of them was ranked 20th on the ‘Strong Ranking’, while the other was ranked 22nd. They were similarly strong and both used ruthless tactics. One should not underestimate them if they truly went all out.

“Let the match begin!”

Su Qian’s faint voice was like a spark that ignited a barrel of gunpowder. In an instant, the extremely tense dagger-drawn atmosphere in the arena completely exploded.

There was not much of a warm-up the moment the match began. Both parties unleashed their most ferocious head-on attacks. Two powerful

Dou Qi collided together, and the sound of exploding Dou Qi brewed into blast waves, sweeping their surroundings like a fierce wind.

Xiao Yan's eyes stared intently at the fight in the arena. He nodded slightly. The students who could reach this stage did indeed have some skill. The overall strength displayed had basically risen one level compared to yesterday.

"Hey, Xiao Yan." During the moment Xiao Yan was staring at the fight, a hand suddenly patted his shoulders. A familiar voice sounded beside his ear.

Xiao Yan turned his head doubtfully. He eyed Lin Yan behind him. When he saw that Lin Yan's face was hiding something, he could not help but felt it was funny, "Why? Why are you here instead of preparing for the next match?"

"Hee hee, I am doing this for your own good. Your number is seven, right?" Lin Yan sat down beside Xiao Yan and laughed as he asked.

"Yes." Xiao Yan nodded as he looked uncertainly at Lin Yan.

"Looks like you really did not hide your number. Originally, your opponent was a fellow ranked 24th. However, that fellow coincidentally belongs to Liu Qing's group. Hence, his number was exchanged with Yao Sheng's number." Lin Yan spread his hand and continued, "Therefore, your opponent has already changed to Yao Sheng. From the looks of it, he plans to properly teach you a lesson in the competition."

"Oh?" Xiao Yan lifted his brows as he asked in surprise, "Isn't changing one's number against the rules?"

"The numbers for the second round are not announced. Most people tightly hide their numbers. No one acts like you, randomly revealing their number." Lin Yan curled his mouth and took out a bamboo stick from his chest pocket. He waved it toward Xiao Yan and smiled as he said, "Why don't we exchange ours? This opponent of mine is someone ranked 19th. Although he is quite strong, he would undoubtedly be much more relaxing compared to Yao Sheng."



Xiao Yan was a little moved when he saw Lin Yan's action. He smiled slightly, pushed the bamboo stick back and smiled as he said, "Coincidentally, I also feel that that fellow is an eyesore. Since he wants to teach me a lesson, won't I be a joke to others if I were to dodge it?"

"You have the confidence? The current strength of that fellow might well enable him to at least enter the top fifteen." Lin Yan frowned, but did not say much when he saw Xiao Yan's rejection.

Xiao Yan smiled and patted Lin Yan's shoulders. He turned his head around and threw his gaze toward the other side of the high platform. A feminine Yao Sheng also coincidentally threw his gaze over. That gaze didn't even try to conceal disdain and provocation amid the femininity.

# Chapter 566: Squaring Off Against Yao Sheng

The second round of the competition held a degree of excitement that far exceeded that of the elimination matches on the first day. Most of those people who were able to reach this point had an extremely great strength. However, even with great strength, they had to go all out if they wanted to obtain victory. Some of them would even fight until both competitors were seriously injured before one of them could luckily obtain a weak victory.

Following the full swing of progression of the second round of the competition, the competitors in the stadium appeared one after another. After the end of an extremely ferocious match, there was one who rejoiced while the other ended up in sorrow.

Xiao Yan eyed Wu Hao in the arena who was being suppressed by his opponent to the point of being stuck in a disadvantageous situation, and could not resist letting out a sigh. Wu Hao could be considered to be out of luck today. The opponent he drew from the lots was actually an expert within the top ten of the 'Strong Ranking'. With this kind of gap which was close to a full class, Wu Hao gradually fell into a disadvantaged situation even though he had gone all out to fight. At this moment, control of the situation was basically completely within his opponents hands.

"It is already not bad that Wu Hao is able to reach this point. If he had met an opponent ranked in the twenties, he might have been able to fight it out. However, he is really quite unlucky to actually meet an opponent within the top ten of the 'Strong Ranking'. However, I think that with Wu Hao's character, he will not feel much regret even if he is defeated by the hands of his opponent." Xun Er shook her head slightly and smiled as she spoke.

"Yes." Xiao Yan smiled and nodded. From the start Wu Hao did not compete with the aim of being in the top ten. His main intention for participating in the Grand Competition was to spar with the true experts

within the Inner Academy. Currently, his opponent had completely satisfied this hope of his. Hence, he would not be dejected even if he lost.

“Instead, Xiao Yan ge-ge, you need to be cautious of Yao Sheng. This person is also a little troublesome. You must be careful when you fight him.” Xun Er reminded with a gentle voice.

“You can rest assured.” Xiao Yan smiled slightly. He had once exchanged blows with Yao Sheng. Additionally, Lin Xiuya had also given him some tips. Therefore, Xiao Yan understood Yao Sheng quite well, and would naturally not underestimate the latter.

“There are twenty-four competitors in the entire arena. In other words, there will be twelve remaining people after today’s matches. According to the special rules of the Grand Competition, six people will be randomly chosen to decide the names of the top ten who will confront each other. The victor will be luckily able to enter the top ten with the other lucky six people.” Xun Er softly spoke.

“Uh? Putting in this way, won’t the other six people who are not picked be able to enter the top ten without fighting it out?” Xiao Yan was immediately stunned when he heard this. He said, “Won’t this be a little unfair to the other six who are picked and have to fight it out?”

“Ke ke, where would there be any thing that is absolutely fair? Moreover, who among those who are able to enter the final round don’t have the strength to enter the top ten? When one possesses the strength, one naturally requires some luck.” Xun Er replied with a sweet smile.

Xiao Yan smiled bitterly and nodded. He suddenly raised his brows and said, “With six people competing, there will still only be three victors. Adding the six people who do not fight, it seems that there is still one missing, right?”

Xun Er laughed softly as she said, “You have forgotten about Zi Yan who has been saying that she will protect you? With her strength, it is likely that no one can touch her number one spot.”

Xiao Yan was startled. He immediately smiled and nodded. He had actually forgotten about this important little fellow.

Xiao Yan turned his head and threw his gaze back into the arena. He involuntarily let out a bitter laugh. At this moment, Wu Hao had already been completely suppressed by his opponent until he had no strength left to retaliate. In one of the collisions between Dou Qi, the powerful Dou Qi that covered his body was instantly shattered. His opponent's attack was not very vicious, and merely displayed some effort to sufficiently shock Wu Hao out of the arena.

Wu Hao acted in quite a straightforward manner after his body was thrown from the arena. He cupped his hands toward the victor on the stage before rubbing the bruised part of his hand. He parted his mouth and laughed as he returned to the high platform.

"That fellow is really strong. He is indeed worthy of being the top ten in the 'Strong Ranking'. I used all my tactics, but was merely able to endure thirty exchanges in the other party's hand. Moreover, this was the result after my opponent showed mercy." Wu Hao exclaimed to Xiao Yan and the others on the high platform.

"Are you alright?" Xiao Yan could not resist shaking his head as he eyed the comfortable expression of that fellow. This person was actually so excited despite being beaten up in this manner.

"Hee hee, it's just some physical injuries. I will be fine after resting for a few days." Wu Hao waved his hand in an unconcerned manner. He was just about to speak when he suddenly heard an old voice from the judges' seats, "The next match, number seven!"

"Uh? It appears that it is your turn to go and fight?" Wu Hao was startled when he heard the words that were transmitted from the high platform. Immediately, he pushed Xiao Yan as he spoke with laughter.

Xiao Yan had also heard that voice. He was somewhat stunned. It was unexpected that it would be his turn so soon. He slowly turned his head and swept his gaze toward the tall platform on the opposite side. Yao Sheng was also stunned. His feminine face was immediately covered by a dark smile.

"That fellow is really arrogant." Wu Hao curled his mouth, patted Xiao

Yan's shoulders, and said, "You better not lose. Otherwise, that fellow will likely greatly humiliate you given his character."

"Relax, he won't get the chance." Xiao Yan's gaze eyed at dark, cold gaze that Yao Sheng shot over as he spoke with a cold smile.

"Xiao Yan, you better not lose." A soft laugh sounded from a spot not too far away. Xiao Yan turned and took a look only to find that it was Lin Xiuya and the others.

As the focus of attention, Lin Xiuya's words naturally caused numerous gazes on the high platform to be shot onto Xiao Yan's body. From these words, it appeared that the next person to appear was Xiao Yan!

Xiao Yan cupped his hands to Lin Xiu Ya and the others. His toes gently pressed on the ground and a faint silver glow formed under his feet. A low and deep thunderous roar sounded as a black shadow suddenly flashed and appeared in the arena.

Everyone in the viewing gallery was startled as they eyed Xiao Yan who had appeared in the arena. Their faces were immediately filled with pleasant surprise. After the intense fight with Bai Cheng yesterday, there was no longer anyone who looked down on Xiao Yan's strength. Currently, they had a feeling that their eyes were going to have a feast when they saw Xiao Yan appearing.

"Hmph, he is quite quick to get down to the arena." Liu Fei revealed a cold smile as she stood on the other side of the high platform looking down at Xiao Yan who had appeared in the arena. She curled her lips in disdain and turned her head to Yao Sheng who was sharpening his scaber. She said, "If you lose to that fellow, do not appear beside me in the future."

The corner of Yao Sheng's mouth lifted. A viciousness appeared on his feminine face, "Yue-er, you can rest assured that I will beat that fellow until he gets on his knees to beg for mercy in front of everyone."

Liu Fei smiled with satisfaction when she heard Yao Sheng say this. She did not have much doubt over the latter's strength. Her pretty eyes shot toward the green-clothed young lady on the opposite side and viciously spoke in her heart, "Little slut, I want to see just how you are going to be

so arrogant after Xiao Yan is defeated!”

“Be careful. Xiao Yan is no ordinary opponent.” Liu Qing, who had been resting with his eyes closed frowned slightly. He opened them, eyed Yao Sheng, who was about to get into the arena, and spoke in a deep voice.

“Chief, you can rest assured. This kind of rubbish is not worthy of your personal intervention. I, alone, am sufficient.” A dark, cold smile hung on the corner of Yao Sheng’s mouth. He bore a grudge in his heart with respect to how Liu Qing rated Xiao Yan so highly. Now that they were finally able to face each other head on, he wanted to let Liu Qing know that this fellow was nothing but a paper tiger that would break with a poke. There was no need to be afraid of him...

The moment his words fell, Yao Sheng leaped up and jumped down from the tall platform. The moment that he was about to land in the arena, two blackish Dou Qi surged out from his feet and greatly reduced his speed. Finally, his legs landed gently on the ground without raising the slightest bit of dust.

“It is actually Yao Sheng? It is said that his current strength was sufficient to be ranked within the top fifteen of the ‘Strong Ranking’. This is a true rival.”

“That’s right. Yao Sheng is quite a lot stronger than Bai Cheng. This match is likely going to be a great spectacle. I wonder if Xiao Yan will be able to continue advancing...”

“I don’t know. Yao Sheng’s Dou Qi is something that even those experts in the top ten of the ‘Strong Ranking’ fear. It is difficult to see just who will lose at this moment...”

Waves of private conversations immediately sounded in the viewing gallery following Yao Sheng’s appearance. Clearly, they felt somewhat surprised about the matchup between the two of them.

While the private conversations resounded around him, Xiao Yan’s hand slowly grabbed the hilt of the Heavy Xuan Ruler on his shoulder. He immediately waved it in a sudden motion. The heavy ruler drew across the air, carrying a rushing wave of sharp wind sounds as an invisible force

swung to the ground. A faint scar appeared.

Xiao Yan's raised his head. His gaze glanced at the feminine Yao Sheng who was giving him a cold smile that harbored no mercy. A dense coldness that was difficult to sense was slowly lifted on Xiao Yan's face. Yao Sheng's repeated provocation had already caused an ill feeling to form in Xiao Yan's heart. Back then, he had also left behind the words that they would see their true skill in the Grand Competition. Now that they were to truly collide, he would naturally not hold back by even the slightest.

"What a lucky fellow. You have actually been lucky during your way here. However, let me help you end your luck." A dark, cold glow rushed into Yao Sheng's tiny, dense eyes. Two dark-black daggers flashed and appeared. The daggers were both around half a foot long. There were a couple of strange looking notches on the body of the knife. A faint dark-red color was present within the notch. It was just like something that was coagulated from blood with the trace of a bloody stench. A penetrating cold glow was also contained on the blade. If one were to carefully observe it, one would be able to discover that the tip of the blade faintly contained an extremely cold pale-purple color. From this appearance, it was clear that a fatal poison was smeared over it.

The daggers swiftly rotated into various arcs within Yao Sheng's hands that left others dazzled. It was just like two black, poisonous snakes that were extremely lively and sinister.

Xiao Yan's face did not have many fluctuations because of Yao Sheng's cold words. He simply glanced at the later before throwing his gaze toward the judges' seats, waiting for the match to begin.

Seeing that Xiao Yan was once again acting in this indifferent manner that he hated, Yao Sheng's expression became darker and more solemn. The two daggers slowly crossed and gently stroke one another. Faint sparks carrying a dense cold luster shot out...

There were quite a number of students on the 'Strong Ranking' who were aware of the conflict, in the 'Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower,' between Xiao Yan and Yao Sheng. Hence, they were all excited now that the two

were facing off against each other. Their gaze turned toward the two tense people in the arena.

Su Qian slowly stood up. His gaze swept across the two people in the arena. A moment later, his hand was gently waved, and the faint sound resounded amid the anticipatory gazes of everyone present.

“The match... begins!”

The atmosphere of the entire stadium suddenly exploded at this moment!

.....

Su Qian's faint voice was just like the spark that ignited a barrel of gunpowder, completely breaking the tense, daggers-drawn atmosphere in the arena!

“Chi!”

Yao Sheng was naturally the first to unleash an attack within the arena. The blackish Dou Qi on his body suddenly erupted, and his body turned into a vague shadow that flashed toward Xiao Yan in a lighting-like manner.

Although Yao Sheng was arrogant, it must be said that this fellow had some capital to be arrogant. Just this speed already caused Xiao Yan to be slightly surprised.

The short dozens of meters were covered in the blink of an eye. In the time it took everyone to take a couple of breaths, the blurry, black shadow forcefully entered into close range of Xiao Yan's body. Immediately, everyone kneaded a cold sweat in their hearts. By looking at Yao Sheng's weapons, they knew that he was extremely good at close range combat. Although Xiao Yan's ruler had great strength, it still needed space to be displayed. If their distance was too close, the opponent would firmly seal it.

Of course, Xiao Yan was naturally able to think to this point. Hence, just as Yao Sheng entered a radius of three meters from his body, he had finally moved. One could only see the silver glow flash under his feet.



Next, his body took a couple of steps back as though it had teleported. The heavy ruler in his hand abruptly cut horizontally. The powerful force caused a circular glowing arc to form on the body of the ruler. The sharp piercing sound of rushing wind howled unceasingly.

Yao Sheng was clearly somewhat surprised that Xiao Yan was able to pull some distance between them from such close proximity. He sensed the pressuring wind that was coming at him. With a cold laugh, his toes pressed on the ground and his body suddenly drifted up. The two daggers in his hand violently pierced down in a lightning-like manner.

“Ding!”

The two daggers coincidentally pierced heavily on the heavy ruler that drew under him. Sparks shot in all directions and a powerful force easily pressed down on the heavy ruler.

Although the daggers did not specialize in head-on, hard attacks, Yao Sheng’s actually strength far surpassed Xiao Yan. Therefore, under the strengthening of the Dou Qi in his body, the compact, agile daggers were able to hold down the heavy ruler that possessed an extremely great strength. This was the advantage of having a higher level.

As the two daggers pressed on the heavy ruler, Yao Sheng’s arms curled. He borrowed the force of the heavy ruler and somersaulted in mid-air. Immediately, his feet stepped toward the sky, and his body was like a hawk catching its prey as it shot toward Xiao Yan’s head in a lightning-like manner. The two daggers in his hand carried a dense, cold wind that caused a person’s skin to become numb.

Xiao Yan raised his brows as he faced this sudden vicious attack variation of Yao Sheng. A glow flashed under his feet, and his body once again instantly withdrew a couple of steps. The heavy ruler in his hand swung up from its lowered position in an accustomed manner as it hacked across.

Yao Sheng was somewhat surprised when his attack failed. His body was like a fish in water while in mid-air. With a strange twist, the heavy ruler moved along his body and narrowly flew by.

As Xiao Yan's attack was similarly dodged by the opponent, he withdrew his ruler and stepped back. He raised his head and eyed Yao Sheng who had landed on the ground, safely standing not far in front of him.

The exchange between these two people did not last for a long time, but it had been extremely dangerous. As long as a little mistake was made by either party, that heavy ruler or dagger would cause the other party to be seriously injured.

Most of the people in the stadium were unable to see the degree of danger. They could only see two human figures swiftly intertwining with each other during this exchange. Then a person leaped into midair and landed on the ground an instant later. Once again the face-off between both parties was formed.

Of course, the various practitioners on the tall platform had clearly witnessed this exchange. They could not help but let out a 'good' cry when the two people parted.

Within the arena, Yao Sheng gently rubbed the two daggers in his hand. The gaze he used to eye Xiao Yan gained an additional solemnness. During that lightning-like exchange earlier, the latter's rich combat experience did not allow Yao Sheng to gain even the slightest advantage.

"I cannot end up in a draw. Otherwise, Fei-er would not be happy." Yao Sheng's gaze flickered as a thought swiftly revolved around his heart, "The other party's speed and combat experience does not lose out to mine. Currently, my advantage is that my actual strength is stronger than him. In that case, I should use my level to suppress him!"

As this thought fell, Yao Sheng's body trembled slightly. Immediately, a black-colored Dou Qi, that contained a fishy smell, suddenly erupted from his body and revolved around his body. This black-colored Dou Qi was very strange. At a glance, it was somewhat viscous in nature. A faint black-colored water trace came out from it and landed on the ground, forming a small water stain...

Following the surging of Yao Sheng's Dou Qi, a pressurizing aura was immediately formed and covered half the arena. Under this sort of

pressure, those people whose levels were lower than him would have their speed and Dou Qi recovery reduced slightly. This was a commonly used tactic when a higher level person faced a lower level person.

Of course, this kind of Dou Qi suppression naturally did not have much of an impact on Xiao Yan. His Dou Qi that had transformed after swallowing the 'Heavenly Flame' was able to completely shield against such suppression.

A green-colored Dou Qi screen slowly spread from Xiao Yan's body. A pressure that was formed from this Dou Qi also surged out, occupying a small corner of the arena. The other places were completely occupied by Yao Sheng's extremely overbearing Dou Qi.

Xiao Yan was completely at a disadvantage in the confrontation of Dou Qi. This was the gap that was the result of one's true strength. Although Xiao Yan's fighting ability was not weak, one's fighting ability did not have much use in this kind of confrontation.

"No matter how strong you are, this is the gap in our levels." Yao Sheng could not resist laughing proudly as he eyed Xiao Yan, who had been suppressed in this Dou Qi exchange until he was unable to fight back.

Xiao Yan glanced faintly at the proud Yao Sheng. Both his hands slowly formed some strange seals. An instant later, he softly cried in his heart, "Skyfire Three Mysterious Change, Green Lotus Change!"

As the cry fell, a surging green-colored flame suddenly erupted from Xiao Yan's body, bathing him in fire. An instant later, the flame shrank into Xiao Yan's body in a lightning-like manner. However, as the flame returned to his body, Xiao Yan's Dou Qi soared immediately. His black hair moved automatically despite the lack of wind. Due to the soar of the Dou Qi in his body, his aura also soared. In an instant, his aura and Yao Sheng's ended up occupying separate halves of the arena.

"Unorthodox moves!" Yao Sheng's expression changed slightly when Xiao Yan made a comeback against his pressuring aura. His mouth, however, gave a cold disdainful smile.

"Whatever can defeat you is orthodox." Xiao Yan similarly gave a cold

smile. After displaying the 'Skyfire Three Mysterious Change', the degree of power of his Dou Qi was also not much weaker than Yao Sheng. Currently, he no longer needed to worry about an attack with his full strength being easily broken by the other party's dagger.

"Yao Sheng, you cannot lose to this cripple... him!" From the tall platform, Liu Fei's pretty face immediately became anxious as she eyed Xiao Yan, whose aura had suddenly soared. She did not care about anything else as she leaped onto her feet and shouted loudly. However, before the final cripple was shouted out by her, she sensed an ice-cold mountain-like gaze shooting over at her from the opposite side. Her gaze swiftly looked over. It was actually that green-clothed, young lady called Xun Er. Originally, given Liu Fei's character, she would definitely ignore her. However, when she saw that faint flickering golden-colored flame in those cold pupils, a coldness rose within her heart. The cripple in her mouth was also swallowed by her.

The cold gaze from the other side slowly withdrew after seeing that Liu Fei's insulting word had not been shouted.

"Hmph, what is there to be proud of? Just see how I am going to humiliate him once that trash is defeated by Yao Sheng's hand! With my elder cousin protecting me, I am not afraid of you, little slut!" Liu Fei spoke viciously. Her expression was green as she sat back on her chair after being frightened by a gaze from the other party to the point where she had to swallow her words.

Hearing the voice of Liu Fei from the tall platform, the gaze which Yao Sheng used to stare at Xiao Yan became much darker and colder. His toes moved slightly, and a black glow agglomerated under his feet without leaving a trace. Immediately, his toes abruptly pressed on the ground as his body emitted a 'suo' sound and instantly approached Xiao Yan.

"Chi, chi..."

Yao Sheng did not hesitate even a little once he entered attacking range. His arm shook swiftly as two daggers that were like two poisonous snakes drew numerous afterimages as they violently pierced toward the entirety

of Xiao Yan's body.

“Clang, clang, clang...”

The silver glow under Xiao Yan's feet flickered as he borrowed the mysteriousness of the 'Three Thousand Lightning Movement. His feet agilely moved within a small area as the heavy ruler in his hand became like a shield, protecting his entire body behind it. Those countless numbers of daggers that came piercing explosively were unceasingly colliding with the heavy ruler. Numerous clear clang sounds that were like unusual notes sounded.

Xiao Yan held the heavy ruler tightly in his hand. The green veins on his arm pulsed. That dagger may appear light and handy but it was just like a heavy rock smashing down as it landed on the heavy ruler. Adding that extremely intensive attack, Xiao Yan's felt his hand become slightly numb even with his increased strength.

Fortunately, such an intensive attack also greatly exhausted Yao Sheng's strength. This wild storm-like attack continued for another five minutes before it gradually slowed. A moment later, those dagger afterimages suddenly disappeared. The pressure on the heavy ruler also slightly reduced.

Xiao Yan violently bore the ruler horizontally as he took a couple of steps back. His chest rose and fell as he eyed Yao Sheng who was repeatedly panting on the opposite side. He once again lowered his head and glanced at the Heavy Xuan Ruler. Even his head felt a little numb as he eyed the dense, tiny white spots. This kind of attack was really too dense and intense. If he had not borrowed the wide body of the Heavy Xuan Ruler, it was likely that he could only choose to dodge such an attack...

“This fellow really does have some ability...” Xiao Yan slowly exhaled a breath of air. His gaze glanced at Yao Sheng on the opposite side. After this confrontation, he did indeed have a little understanding of the latter's tactics.

“Yao Sheng, use your full strength. Don't dilly-dally with him!”

Yao Sheng knit his brows slightly when he heard the urging voice of a lady once again sounding from the tall platform. He immediately let out a helpless sigh. His gaze was dark and solemn as he stared at Xiao Yan. As his arms formed a seal, one could see a dense black-colored Dou Qi surging out explosively from his body before wrapping around him.

The black-colored Dou Qi spread out repeatedly. Finally, it was like a large Dou Qi cluster that began to shrink and expand in a rhythmic manner. It appeared like it was brewing something.

Caution rose within Xiao Yan's heart as he eyed this somewhat strange action of Yao Sheng. The Dou Qi in his body speed up and was ready to be unleashed.

"Black Water World!"

A low cry was suddenly emitted from within the black-colored Dou Qi. Immediately, that black-colored Dou Qi cluster suddenly rotated swiftly. A roaring sound reverberated over the entire arena.

As the rotation occurred, Xiao Yan was stunned to realize that a countless amount of black-colored liquid shot out from within it. As it rotated, it basically covered the entire arena within it.

As Xiao Yan was uncertain what exactly this thing was, he did not dare let it touch his body. Hence, his body swiftly withdrew and dodged those black liquids that shot over.

The dodging continued for a moment before Xiao Yan's body suddenly paused. He hurriedly lowered his head only to discover that both his legs had unknowingly stepped into a pool of black water.

Xiao Yan used all his strength to pull his legs. He was stunned to realize that the black water actually contained quite a strong suction force. Moreover, this black water also possessed an extremely strong corrosiveness. In just the blink of an eye, a layer of Xiao Yan's shoes had already corroded. If it not for his quick reaction to direct Dou Qi and wrap it around his feet, it was likely that his shoes would have instantly corroded.

“The entire arena is my domain. How can you land on your feet? You have lost this match!” Cold laughter suddenly sounded. Xiao Yan’s eyes shrank slightly, only to see the black water splashing explosively in front of him. Yao Sheng’s body shot out from that spot in a strange manner. The sharp dagger in his hand violently pierced toward Xiao Yan’s arm.

Those who were on the tall platform immediately exclaimed one after another as they eyed Xiao Yan, who was unable to move because he was stuck in the black puddle of water. He could only receive Yao Sheng’s attack head-on.

The pride on the corner of Yao Sheng’s mouth became increasingly rich upon hearing the exclamations from the tall platform. The speed of the dagger in his hand suddenly accelerated. However, just as he was about to strike his target, a wild wind suddenly blew toward him. The point where his dagger landed was empty...

Yao Sheng’s body swiftly lowered himself when his attack missed. He made a couple of strange twists while nestling close to the water, and his body quickly withdrew over ten meters. Only at this moment did he raise his gaze and was stunned to realize that Xiao Yan’s figure was not in the arena...

“Where is he?”

The viewing gallery was similarly uncertain as numerous gazes looked in all directions.

Yao Sheng’s face was dark and solemn. His gaze was slightly lowered, only to suddenly see an inverted image within a cluster of black water. His body instantly stiffened as he immediately raised his head in a sudden motion.

All he saw was a black-robed, young man suspended in the air. Behind him were a pair of large purple-black wings. Those wings flapped slowly. He appeared much like a deity.

As Yao Sheng raised his head, everyone in the viewing gallery also raised their gazes at the same time. They were stunned when they saw the pair of wings on the back of Xiao Yan...

Dou... Dou Qi transforming into wings?”

Besides the viewing gallery, those on the tall platform and even in the judges’ seats emitted sounds of inhaling cold air one after another. Everyone’s gazes were filled with shock and disbelief.



# Chapter 567: Overcoming the 'Black Water World'

The entire stadium was silent as the black-robed, young man flapped his wings, suspended in mid-air.

Su Qian's face on the judges' seats was also somewhat stunned. However, his eyes were naturally far from what the others could compare with. This was because when his gaze once again swept over the wings on Xiao Yan's back, his stunned look gradually turned to a sudden understanding. "It is actually a Flying Dou Technique. Hei, it is really unexpected that this little fellow is even able to get his hands on such a rare Dou Technique."

As Su Qian pointed it out, the other Elders also came to a sudden understanding. An ordinary person might not have heard very much about the Flying Dou Techniques. However, with their experience, they have heard a little about such extremely rare Dou Techniques.

"Fortunately... I almost thought for a second there that this little fellow had advanced to the Dou Wang class." Some of the Elders quietly wiped off the cold sweat on their foreheads. They had went all out to desperately train for decades in order to achieve their current strength. If this young man below, who was not even twenty, had achieved this step, they would truly feel grief and indignation. Moreover, the most frightening thing was that this fellow was also a tier five alchemist...

The silent atmosphere in the arena continued for a period of time. Finally, it gradually once again became active. There were also a few people on the tall platform who had recognized the origin of the wings on Xiao Yan's back and sighed in relief because of this. There was immediately some envy within the arena. A Flying Dou Technique may not be comparable to a pair of true Dou Qi wings, but it was still able to allow one to fly in the sky. This was a target that many people had been chasing after. Especially when the Dou Wang class was so far away. One did not know just when it would be before one could train until that level.

“It is actually a Flying Dou Technique...” The dull face of Yao Sheng within the arena also gradually recovered. He was able to clearly sense that Xiao Yan’s aura had yet to advance to the Dou Wang class. When he carefully studied the shape of the purple-black wings, his heart came to a sudden comprehension. His tensed up body also relaxed slowly.

Yao Sheng would not be too afraid of him as long as the other party had not truly reached the Dou Wang class, even if his opponent had the advantage of flying.

Yao Sheng’s feet stood in the strange black water that covered the entire arena. He raised his head and looked at Xiao Yan in the sky before speaking with a cold smile, “I don’t believe that you can continue remaining in the sky. According to my knowledge, continuously displaying a Flying Dou Technique exhausts quite a lot of Dou Qi, right?”

Xiao Yan hand tightly held the heavy ruler in the sky. His gaze glanced at the arena below as he frowned slightly. It was just as Yao Sheng had said. At this moment, the entire arena had completely turned into Yao Sheng’s domain. The moment he landed on the ground, he would be stuck to that strange black water. Xiao Yan may be able to isolate that corrosiveness, but its suction strength would hinder his speed to a varying extent. When facing an opponent who specialized in swift speed, like Yao Sheng, a slight reduction in speed may result in one being pressured into a disadvantaged position.

Yao Sheng held the pair of dark-black daggers tightly. He smiled coldly as he watched Xiao Yan who was suspended in mid-air. He did not move his body even a little. Since Xiao Yan had the advantage of being in the sky, Yao Sheng’s attack range could not reach him. If he were to forcefully leap into the air and attack, then he would become the other party’s target board. Hence, remaining quiet during this kind of moment was the best choice.

“It is indeed quite troublesome...” Xiao Yan slowly flapped the wings on his back as his body descended greatly. Green-colored Dou Qi formed a faint energy film on the surface of his body. The dark-black heavy ruler was also completely covered by Dou Qi. His gaze stared intently at Yao

Sheng in the arena while a faint silver glow suddenly formed under his feet. An instant later, the wings on his back flapped, borrowing the wind's strength. The 'Three Thousand Lightning Movement' was unleashed to its limit. It came to the point where other than a few people, the remaining people could only see Xiao Yan's body trembling before leaving behind a partially visible afterimage in the sky.

The sudden spike in Xiao Yan's speed caused Yao Sheng's expression to change slightly. Before Xiao Yan had arrived in person, the force from his speed had already struck, causing the black water on the ground to fly up.

A vague black shadow suddenly appeared in Yao Sheng's eyes. His leg moved slightly and his body appeared like it was ice-skating as he teleported over the black water. As his body moved, the heavy ruler that contained a sharp rushing wind sound also nestled close to him as it came heavily shearing down while carrying a wave of fiery pain.

When the hacking of the heavy ruler missed, the direction of its strength changed nearly instantly, forcefully stopping the downward hacking motion. The ruler was twisted and the hacking motion changed to a sweeping one that cut toward Yao Sheng's waist.

The degree of response that Xiao Yan used to change his attack far exceeded Yao Sheng's expectations. Hence, when the heavy ruler changed direction, Yao Sheng's entire body was covered with cold sweat. In this critical moment, his legs on the black water appeared to have slipped without thought, causing his body to fall backward. The moment he heavily fell on the water, he cleverly avoided the heavy ruler.

As Yao Sheng's body landed in the black water, not only did he not receive even the slightest bit of resistance but he also ended up just like a fish in water. His body lay in the water and flashed in a strange manner. Immediately, he appeared under Xiao Yan who was less than two meters from the ground. Both his arms shook and the dark-black daggers were just like poisonous snakes, carrying a dense, cold wind as they pierced at Xiao Yan's chest.

"Bang!"

The moment that the dagger were about to reach Xiao Yan's body, a powerful invisible wind suddenly pressed down. While being blocked by this wind, Yao Sheng's attack paused momentarily. On the other hand, Xiao Yan borrowed this pushing force and once again leaped into the air, escaping from Yao Sheng's attack range.

"Chi!" Yao Sheng involuntarily twitched the corner of his mouth. He let out a scoffing sound after he ended up missing his chance to attack, which were difficult to come by.

During the fight that occurred in a split second, both Xiao Yan and Yao Sheng had once again finished one round of dangerous encounters. Both parties respectively had a pair of wings and great agility atop the black water and they had an approximate understanding of each other's speed. The eyes of everyone outside of the arena were burning with passion because of this exciting fight.

"This fellow appears to not be affected by the suction force of the black water. Instead, he is even more agile, just like a fish entering water." Xiao Yan softly muttered as he knit his brows and watched Yao Sheng, who was nestled close to the black water. The strange agility that Yao Sheng had displayed on the black water earlier had exceeded his expectations. If he had not displayed the 'Fire Palm' at the last crucial moment to shock the air and unleash a wind to slow down the opponent's attack, it was likely that he would have received some injuries in this exchange to test each other out.

"Looks like I must deal with this black water. Otherwise, this fellow's attack strength soars by over twenty percent while on it." A thought swiftly rotated within Xiao Yan's heart as his eyes flickered, "No matter how strange this black water is, it ultimately possesses the properties of water. As long as it is water, I am not afraid that I will not be able to vaporize all of it!"

Xiao Yan did not have the slightest hesitation as this thought flashed across his heart. His ten fingers flicked gently and threads of extremely tiny green-colored flames immediately flashed out from the tips of his fingers. Following the appearance of these flames, the temperature of the

arena soared greatly.

Yao Sheng eyed the ten plus wisps of scattered green-colored flames in the sky from within the arena. His expression changed slightly. This was especially so when his gaze swept over the cold smile on the corner of Xiao Yan's mouth. His heart sank slightly after that.

“Go!”

Xiao Yan flicked his fingers while floating in the air. Immediately, the ten plus wisps of tiny flames shot down.

Yao Sheng's body twisted and swiftly dodged when he sensed the green-colored flame fly over.

However, these flames were not directed at Yao Sheng. Instead, they lingered around half a foot on top of the arena, swiftly shuttling around. Such a close distance interaction caused the black water, which was spread over the ground, to swiftly dry up at a rate visible to the naked eye. The water couldn't withstand the frightening temperature of the 'Green Lotus Core Flame'.

Quite a number of people on the tall platform exclaimed quietly as they eyed the diminishing black water. It was unexpected that Xiao Yan would use this kind of method to restrain Yao Sheng's 'Black Water World'. Although this kind of method could not be considered to be rare, it was extremely effective. There was no lack of people among them who had exchanged blows with Yao Sheng before. However, without a Flying Dou Technique, they were unable to fly into the sky and dodge when faced with this extremely troublesome 'Black Water World'. Hence, they could only forcefully resist the suction force and the corrosive strength. However, by fighting while being distracted, it was only a matter of time before Yao Sheng used his speed to wear one down unless Yao Sheng's opponent's strength far surpassed Yao Sheng.

“Ke ke, Xiao Yan's tactics really do cause one's eyes to become dizzy. It is likely that Yao Sheng, who has lost the effect of 'Black Water World,' will be suppressed by Xiao Yan in terms of speed.” Lin Xiu Ya could not resist laughing as he watched the black water in the arena that had been

reduced by half.

“He is the only one who can use this technique. That ‘Black Water World’ is the coagulation of Yao Sheng’s Dou Qi and some special poisonous liquid. An ordinary flame would have difficulty dealing with it.” Han Yue nodded slightly as he spoke.

“That flame is indeed very troublesome...” Lin Xiu Ya’s gaze glanced at the wisps of fire-serpent-like green-colored flames that were randomly scurrying about. A solemnness flashed across his eyes.

Liu Qing frowned as he eyed the swiftly reducing black water within the arena from the other side of the high platform. He shook his head and said in a deep voice, “Yao Sheng is in trouble...”

Anxiety immediately flashed across Liu Fei’s pretty face by the side when she heard this. She was about to stand up and shout when Liu Qing’s expression sank. He cried out in a low voice, “Sit down. Just how do you think you look like by shouting when watching a match?”

Liu Fei could only return to her seat filled with grievances when she was scolded by Liu Qing. She used her vicious gaze to stare at Xiao Yan who was suspended in mid-air while she muttered a curse, “All he does is just rely on a Flying Dou Technique. What is there to be proud about?”

“As long as it is able to defeat his opponent, it can not be considered a trick. A match where one sets all sorts of rules is nothing but a sparring between children. In a real life and death match, the dead person does not have a chance to raise a dispute.” Liu Qing replied faintly. His gaze that was glancing at the arena suddenly solidified as he sighed, “Yao Sheng’s ‘Black Water World’ can be considered to have met its nemesis.”

As Liu Qing’s words sounded, the final cluster of black water in the arena was turned into nothingness under the circling flames and the furious green expression of Yao Sheng.

Xiao Yan beckoned with his hand in the sky. The ten plus wisps of green-colored flame, which had become a lot smaller, were withdrawn back into his body. He faintly eyed the furious green face of Yao Sheng before flapping the pair of wings on his back. The heavy ruler in his hand

was once again wrapped by powerful Dou Qi...

“Next, I want to see just what tactics you have left.”

# Chapter 568: Victorious!

Yao Sheng's face was a furious green as he eyed Xiao Yan in the sky who had a mocking smile hanging on the corner of his lips. His hands tightened their grip on the daggers as he said coldly, "Even without the 'Black Water World', you will be defeated sooner or later. I don't believe that that secret technique of yours to raise your strength can endure for long."

"It is sufficient enough to finish you off." Xiao Yan laughed softly. His arm shook a little as powerful green-colored Dou Qi carrying threads of green-colored flames, that were difficult to discover, leaped and climbed onto the heavy ruler. His gaze stared intently at Yao Sheng below, whose entire body was tense. An instant later, Xiao Yan suddenly flapped his wings, only to hear a slight 'shua' sound. Immediately, a vague black shadow strangely appeared behind the back of Yao Sheng's head. The heavy ruler in his hand carried a wild and violent force as it was viciously hacked downward. That ferocious wind appeared to be intent on tearing the air in front of him apart.

Yao Sheng sensed something the moment the wind from his back sounded. His feet stomped heavily on the ground, and a black water vapor abruptly surged out from under his feet. Finally, it collided with that heavy ruler.

"Puff!"

The moment the two came into contact, the heavy ruler heated the dark-black water until it turned into a somewhat blackish mist in an extremely easy manner. However, when it fell, the space in front of it was empty. After borrowing the instant obstruction of the water vapor earlier, Yao Sheng had already used his agility to withdraw a couple of meters.

The attack by Xiao Yan's heavy ruler had just fell when a dark and ruthless Yao Sheng once again pounced over in a lightning-like manner. His pair of dark black daggers swiftly rotated between his ten fingers. They were like two poisonous snakes, easily fatal and filled with a dense, cold



luster.

Xiao Yan raised his brows upon seeing that Yao Sheng had come attacking head on. The Dou Qi in his body was just like a galloping river that swiftly flowed unceasingly within his Qi Paths. It filled the various parts of his body with an extremely large quantity and gave him strength. Both his hands held the heavy ruler tightly as a low cry sounded from his throat. Immediately, the heavy ruler once again viciously pierced forward.

As the wind was strong, it pulled away all the air in the area where the heavy ruler passed. Low and deep gas explosion sounds repeatedly resonated, piercing one's eardrum.

Under this attack, the distance between the two of them was basically covered in the blink of an eye. However, just as the two daggers of Yao Sheng made contact with the heavy ruler, their bodies strangely twisted. Their bodies used a unique stance as they nestled close to the surface of the heavy ruler and rotated a couple of times before they suddenly appeared at the spot where Xiao Yan was holding the heavy ruler. With a dark, cold smile, the sharp daggers in his hands were unceremoniously sliding toward where Xiao Yan's hands were.

Some exclamation sounded in the stadium as everyone eyed Xiao Yan. Yao Sheng had suddenly bullied his way to get near him. Under such close distance, the strength of the heavy ruler was basically completely blocked by the other party! According to a normal situation, Xiao Yan would likely be pressured by Yao Sheng until he ended up on the losing end after this. Moreover, if Xiao Yan was careless, those tricky, vicious, poisonous snake-like daggers would even leave behind quite a deep wound on Xiao Yan's body.

There were only a couple of people knitting their brows together while the entire stadium was exclaiming. With Xiao Yan's fighting experience and speed, how could he allow the other party to enter his own attack's blind spot this easily?

Liu Fei's face was so excited that her face was somewhat flushed red as she watched Xiao Yan face a treacherous situation. She nearly let out a

cheer. However, the eyes of Liu Qing, who was seated beside her, stared intently at Xiao Yan's face. There was not the slightest thread of panic there. Instead, it faintly contained a cold smile. His heart immediately sank a little.

Under the countless number of focused gazes in the arena, Yao Sheng's two daggers approached Xiao Yan's hands. The dense, cold wind on them caused the pores on Xiao Yan's hands to open up.

As the daggers approached Xiao Yan's hand, the joy on the corner of Yao Sheng's mouth expanded.

Just as the daggers were extremely close to Xiao Yan, the latter finally made a move. He did not adopt any shocking counter attack, but instead took the initiative to release the heavy ruler in his hand. The heavy ruler flew through the air and landed heavily on the ground. The clear sound caused some people to sigh. Could the fight still continue after he had lost his weapon? Of course, there were similarly quite a number of people who adopted other thoughts. At this moment, they suddenly recalled the scene of Xiao Yan's fight with Bai Sheng back in the Fighting Arena. At that time, the strength that Xiao Yan had displayed after losing his weapon was even wilder and more ferocious than before!

Xiao Yan's act of abandoning his weapon caused a wild joy to surge onto Yao Sheng's face. This moment did not allow him to hesitate any more. The daggers in his hands were suddenly covered by a black-colored Dou Qi. As threads of Dou Qi lingered over them, a strange smell of fish suddenly filled the arena!

"Imaginary Submerged Thorn!"

A dark cry containing a dense coldness was let out as the pair of daggers swiftly shook in a strange manner. Threads of black air covered them as the daggers shook. The black air appeared to be a poison serpent that possessed a spirit as it shot out in all directions. At this moment, each thread of black air possessed the strength to penetrate a huge rock.

Xiao Yan clearly understood in his heart that these black vapors that came flying over from all directions not only possessed a shocking

strength, they also contained a fatal poison. As he watched them... Xiao Yan's hands swiftly formed some seals in front of him. He immediately let out a soft cry and wisps of green-colored flames swiftly surged out from the Acceptance Spirit within the vortex.

As the flames within his body surged out, the exterior of Xiao Yan's body was once again wrapped by a flame. Moreover, as the flame flickered, it agglomerated into a flame armor in the blink of an eye at lightning-like speed.

“Chi, chi...”

As the countless number of black threads heavily knocked on the armor, it appeared like ice was meeting boiling oil as a ‘chi’ sound was repeatedly emitted. The force that was sufficient to penetrate an enormous rock merely caused the flame armor to be slightly dented.

As the black threads surged explosively, two dense cold glows lit up. With lightning swift momentum, they immediately pierced violently toward the flame armor. Immediately, two clear metal sounds resounded from within the arena.

The two dark-black daggers were extremely large. Even though the green flame armor was extremely strong, it was still penetrated by a depth of half a finger. Even though it was penetrated, this was the daggers' limit. The extremely hot temperature on the flame armor instantly caused the dark-black daggers to become fiery-red. Yao Sheng was holding tightly on the daggers with his hands as the daggers emitted a ‘chi chi’ sound and white vapor came rising from them. Such a situation shocked him to the point where he hurriedly maneuvered his Dou Qi and wrapped it around his hands. Despite this, he still felt a searing pain that was gradually becoming stronger.

Yao Sheng violently pushed at the daggers, but they did not move even a little. Helpless, he could only swiftly release his hands. As he withdrew, his gaze stared intently at Xiao Yan, whose entire body was wrapped within the flame armor. At this moment, he appeared to faintly see a mocking gaze flash from underneath the helmet.

The green flame Dou Qi suddenly soared, and the helmet flame that covered Xiao Yan's head instantly disappeared. Xiao Yan's face was revealed with the disappearance of the helmet. At this moment, his mouth appeared like a frog as it beat in a large rhythmic motion. His hands swiftly formed a seal.

"This is bad!"

The heart of Yao Sheng, who was flying back in retreat, suddenly sank as he watched Xiao Yan's movements.

However, as this thought flashed across his heart, the seal on Xiao Yan's hands suddenly ceased. His mouth beat before it was abruptly opened. Immediately... an extremely clear tiger roar that shook one's eardrum suddenly sounded explosively within the arena!

"Lion Tiger Gold Shattering Roar!"

The sound of a tiger roar surged out from Xiao Yan's mouth. A circular substance-like sound wave spread out in a lightning-like manner much like a ripple. Instantly, it caught up to Yao Sheng. The head of the latter immediately became giddy. His stomach felt nausea as a mouthful of fresh blood surged into his throat before finally spilling out from the corner of his mouth.

Under this sudden sonic attack, Yao Sheng finally suffered serious trauma. Moreover, a fatal dizziness also appeared.

In this kind of exchange, such a giddiness would undoubtedly decide the victor. Given Xiao Yan's character, he would definitely not give up on this kind of giddiness that was purposefully created. Therefore, just as Yao Sheng's mind was being replaced by dizziness, Xiao Yan's body finally made a move!

The silver glow under his feet flickered and a faint lightning roar sounded. Immediately, everyone's gazes were blurred as Xiao Yan's body instantly appeared in front of Yao Sheng in a ghost-like manner.

Everyone's hearts were abruptly raised when they saw this scene. They knew that the victor was going to be decided at this moment!

The dizziness in Yao Sheng's mind merely lasted for a couple of breaths. However, when his mind gradually recovered its consciousness, a black shadow had already appeared in front of him. As shock rose in his heart, an extremely powerful wind, that carried a low sonic boom, sounded over the entire arena.

“Octane Blast!”

Yao Sheng had already lost his chance to dodge given such a close distance. His face was covered by shock and despair.

The sound of one inhaling cool air sounded all over the arena at this moment. Under such a ferocious attack, it was likely that Yao Sheng would definitely lose.

“Yao Sheng has lost!” Faint words were spat out from both Liu Qing's and Lin Xiuya's mouth at the same time. However, the former's face was dark and solemn while the latter's face was filled with amazement and smiles.

Upon hearing the words that were emitted from Liu Qing's mouth, the face of Liu Fei, who had an excited face earlier when she anticipated Yao Sheng beating Xiao Yan up until the latter begged for mercy, suddenly became pale-white. Her mouth repeatedly opened and closed thinking, how can this be?

The fist that was wrapped by powerful Dou Qi passed through the obstruction of the air and carried an incomparably powerful force as it heavily smashed into the chest of the shocked Yao Sheng. His fist rotated and a force that was thrown in all directions launched out.

“Grug!”

An intense pain was transmitted from Yao Sheng's chest as an unusual redness surged onto his shocked face. An instant later, he finally could not help but wildly spit out a mouthful of fresh blood. His body appeared to have suffered a serious blow as it shot backward before finally landing heavily outside of the arena. Numerous crack lines instantly appeared on the ground where he landed.

The fresh blood that was spat out was vaporized by the flames when it was still around two to three feet from Xiao Yan's body. The green flame armor on Xiao Yan's body trembled before it swiftly turned into nothingness.

Xiao Yan slowly stepped forward. He eyed the pale-white face of Yao Sheng outside of the arena in an indifferent manner. A calm voice reverberated over the arena.

“You have lost...”

# Chapter 569: Dazzling

Xiao Yan's calm voice reverberated around the arena, causing the numerous private conversations to abruptly cease. Numerous gazes that contained different kinds of emotion repeatedly looked back and forth between the person standing in the arena and at the miserable looking Yao Sheng outside of the arena with a pale-white face.

The silence continued for a moment before a clear clapping sound abruptly started. Immediately, a chain effect appeared to have occurred as an orderly applause came roaring from the stadium and soared to the clouds.

Xiao Yan raised his head as he heard the applause that filled the stadium. He looked at the place where Xun Er was at. At this moment, this girl was smiling sweetly. Her delicate hands elegantly clapped and produced a moving applause. The first claps that had sounded earlier came from this spot.

Xiao Yan smiled at Xun Er before once again turning his head. His gaze was thrown in the direction where Liu Qing and the others were. Upon seeing the former looking over, Liu Qing's gaze meet with his. His chin gave a slight nod without leaving a trace before it faintly turned away. Liu Fei, who was gritting her teeth and repeatedly cursing by the side, was automatically ignored by Xiao Yan.

"Xiao Yan wins this match!"

Su Qian on the judges' seat also smiled and stood up. His gaze looked over the entire arena as he spoke slowly.

As Su Qian's decision sounded, the applause that resounded across the entire arena once again became much louder. The gazes that were used to watch the black-robed, young man in the arena had some reverence and fear that could not be hidden. The strength that Xiao Yan had displayed in the match had completely subdued them.

Xiao Yan once again glanced at Yao Sheng's ashen face. The Purple Cloud Wings on his back gently flapped, and his body lifted before

immediately flying to the tall platform. With a shake of his shoulders, the Purple Cloud Wings were swiftly withdrawn before finally disappearing under numerous gazes of envy around him.

“Xiao Yan, you are really good. Now, I want to see just how that fellow is going to provoke you.” Wu Hao revealed surprise on his face as he smiled and spoke while giving Xiao Yan a heavy punch. The fight earlier could be said to have been filled with ups and downs. He did not know just how many times his heart had clenched.

“It is really unexpected that you actually possess this kind of rare Flying Dou Technique.” Hu Jia’s curious voice was transmitted from Xiao Yan’s back as she also spoke with an envious face.

Xiao Yan smiled and threw his gaze toward the green-clothed, young lady in front of him. The pretty eyes of the latter also contained a slight smile and gentleness.

“Ke ke, Xiao Yan, congratulations. By having defeated Yao Sheng, it can basically be said you are able to enter the top ten.” A hearty laugh sounded from behind Xiao Yan. Xiao Yan turned around to take a look and discovered that it was Lin Xiuya’s group.

“I was merely lucky. If I had not coincidentally restrained the ‘Black Water World’, it is likely that it wouldn’t have been so easy to win.” Xiao Yan shook his head and replied while smiling.

“You possess a Flying Dou Technique, so that ‘Black Water World’ does not have much of an impact on you anyway.” Lin Xiuya’s gaze drifted toward Xiao Yan’s back without leaving any trace as he clicked his tongue and praised.

“However, now that you have defeated Yao Sheng, you have dampened the vigor of Liu Qing’s group. It is likely that there will no longer be anyone who will look down on you in the future.” Lin Xiuya’s gaze was thrown toward the place where Liu Qing’s group was as he spoke with a teasing smile.

“I only want to enter the top ten. It does not really matter much to me whether it is the first or the tenth within the top ten.” Xiao Yan smiled as



he replied. He did not want to enter into the contest between Lin Xiuya's and Liu Qing's factions. His purpose behind participating in the Grand Competition was merely to obtain a top ten spot and gain the qualification to enter into the bottom level of the 'Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower'. Since the first and the tenth ranks both possessed the qualification to do so, it was fine as long as he was able to obtain a spot in the top ten.

Lin Xiuya laughed. He had also heard the meaning within Xiao Yan's words, and did not continue to get entangled in this topic. He redirected the conversation as he said, "Ke ke, we might make a return trip to the deep mountains after the Grand Competition. If you also have some interest, you can come with us. That thing has extremely great benefit to you."

Xiao Yan's heart leaped when he heard Lin Xiuya bringing up the matter of the 'Core Quenching Body Milk'. His face, however, did not register any change in expression as he randomly spoke in a perfunctory manner, "We will see when that time comes. However, the strength of that beast is a little frightening. It is likely not going to be easy to succeed."

"We can just try. It is not like you don't know the value of that thing." Lin Xiuya sighed. Although he clearly knew that the chances of success were low, he was still unwilling to give up.

Xiao Yan nodded in a vague manner. He carelessly conversed a little with Lin Xiuya before his eyes were attracted by an intense fight within the arena.

The matches after Xiao Yan's were also exciting and dangerous. A fight at this level was something that even those with Xiao Yan's eyesight could not resist quietly nodding their heads in approval. The students who could reach this step all had a strength that basically belonged to the peak of the Inner Academy. It was natural that they gave others a dazzling blood-boiling feeling when they fought.

Xiao Yan had also witnessed Lin Yan in action in the fight that followed. The latter's strength had clearly improved after the fire poison had been

completely expelled from his body. According to Xiao Yan's estimation, if one were to judge the current Lin Yan solely based on his strength, it was likely that he would be able to enter the top five. In this match, his opponent was merely someone who was ranked nineteenth on the 'Strong Ranking'. Thus, Lin Yan did not exhaust much of his strength and managed to get his opponent to admit defeat after a short twenty exchanges.

Not long after Lin Yan appeared, two other opponents who Xiao Yan paid attention to also appeared one after another. They were Liu Qing and Lin Xiuya...

There was still the gap between Xiao Yan's current reputation and that of these two dazzling stars within the Inner Academy.

As the main focus of attention in the stadium, the appearance of the two of them instantly attracted everyone's eyes. Immediately, passionate shouting resounded in a deafening manner within the stadium.

The one who made the first appearance was Liu Qing. This time around, his opponent was someone ranked eleventh, whose strength had reached the eight star Dou Ling class. This kind of rank and strength was already very close to the top within the Inner Academy. However, from the somewhat bitter mannerisms the latter displayed when he appeared, it seemed that he was still extremely depressed over having picked Liu Qing as his opponent.

The fight that followed did not exceed Xiao Yan's expectations. The moment the fight began, Liu Qing's extremely domineering aura firmly covered the opponent. Each time his claw-like hands attacked, he would leave behind numerous afterimages in the air... His claw hand attacks appeared unrestrained, and no pattern could be found. Even though his opponent had used all his strength, there were still some injuries that repeatedly appeared. As this kind of suppression continued for nearly ten minutes, Liu Qing finally erupted. His terrifying speed exploded instantly. By the time everyone recovered, they only saw Liu Qing's claw-like hand pausing on the other party's throat.

As he sensed the dense, cold wind that was transmitted from his throat, the expert who was ranked eleventh was sensible to admit defeat...

As everyone in the viewing gallery watched the victor of the fight be determined in less than ten minutes, everyone sighed and shook their heads. He was indeed worthy of being a top three existence on the strong ranking. Although the strength of Liu Qing's opponent had reached the eight star Dou Ling rank and appeared to be close to that of Liu Qing who was at the peak of the Dou Ling class, the gap when they started fighting was still extremely great. Even a person who was a little weaker was able to see the gap in one glance.

Xiao Yan overlooked Liu Qing in the arena from the tall platform and could not resist sighing. This Grand Competition had already reached the second round, but the latter had still not used the Mountain Splitting Spear on his back. By relying only on his hands, he was able to cause so many experts to quietly withdraw. Such a strength was indeed terrifying.

"This Liu Qing appears to have half a foot in the Dou Wang class. Although he is still unable to compare with a true Dou Wang, he is much stronger when compared to ordinary Dou Lings." Xun Er beside Xiao Yan drooped her pretty eyes a little as she spoke softly, "Moreover, it is also likely that Lin Xiuya possesses a similar strength."

Xiao Yan nodded slightly and sighed, "They are indeed two extremely strong fellows. In this Inner Academy, it is likely that there is no one else other than Zi Yan who can suppress them." Xiao Yan suddenly turned his head over when he spoke until this point. His eyes stared at Xun Er and he smiled deviously as he asked, "Could Xun Er do it?"

Xun Er's long narrow eyebrows trembled slightly as she saucily returned the question, "What does Xiao Yan ge-ge think?"

Xiao Yan's eyes stared at the young lady, who was laughing prettily, and his mind suddenly became absent-minded. How long had it been since he had seen her dazzling side? She had the qualifications and the strength, but was willing to quietly remain behind him to do some tiny and insignificant things.

Xiao Yan's hand slowly rubbed Xun Er's slightly flushed face as he softly said, "Girl, I know that your training talent is very great. It has been so since long ago... although I seldom see you truly attacking, I am still able to sense that it is likely that your current strength is much stronger than me. You appear to have completely withdrawn your dazzle in the Jia Nan Academy, especially after I arrived... I do not hope that you suppress yourself because of me. Instead, I like your dazzling manner. That way, I will have the motivation to chase after you."

Those pretty eyes were startled as they studied the lamenting Xiao Yan. A moment later, Xun Er cracked a smile. Her flawless, beautiful smile caused the eyes of those around to be filled with shock. Their breathing also felt asphyxiated.

"Xiao Yan ge-ge wishes to see Xun Er's dazzling side?" The green-clothed young lady stood prettily. Her black hair was randomly restrained by a purple ribbon. At this moment, a dignified and proud expression appeared on the face where a shallow smile had been hanging. This pride was completely different than Liu Fei's one of basking in the glory of others. Instead, it was confidence! A confidence in one's strength.

A man who was filled with confidence had great charm while a woman who was filled with confidence similarly possessed an incomparably unique attraction. This could be clearly sensed from the surrounding gazes which had suddenly become hot.

Xiao Yan's observed the emotions on Xun Er's face that he was not familiar with, and a smile slowly surfaced on his face as he nodded.

"Once the competition is over, I will let Xiao Yan ge-ge see a Xun Er who is most dazzling." The young lady gave a sweet, gentle smile as she eyed Xiao Yan's joyful face. Immediately, she supplemented, "And also before we part..."

# Chapter 570: One pester and one strong

Not long after Liu Qing entered and left the arena, Xiao Yan had finally waited long enough to see Lin Xiuya's appearance in the arena. Xiao Yan had been extremely curious of this expert who was ranked in front of Liu Qing. Lin Xiuya had been unable to display the sharpness that was associated with his rank deep in the mountains since his opponent was a Dou Wang class Magical Beast and he was busy dodging the entire time. However, from the looks of how he could still jump around in such a lively manner after receiving such a heavy blow from the 'Snow Demon Sky Ape,' which had awoken its wild and violent bloodline, it seemed that the strength of this fellow belonged to a frightening group.

The appearance of Lin Xiuya was undoubtedly one of the few highlights of today's competition. Moreover, his popularity within the Inner Academy was something that even Liu Qing could not compare with. His normally approachable, warm manner made it extremely easy to let others get a good feeling about him. Even someone as tenacious as Xiao Yan had difficulty forming any enmity toward him. Therefore, as he entered the arena, the surrounding viewing gallery started emitting a deafening cheer. The faces of some female students also became flushed as their gazes carried embarrassment and joy while looking at the green-clothed, young man who was standing straight and tall in the arena.

If one said that everyone in the Inner Academy held fear and respect for Lin Xiuya and Liu Qing, it was likely that they felt more respect for the former and a greater amount of fear for the latter.

The completely different auras emitted by both of them decided how welcomed they were.

Xiao Yan leaned against the guardrail. His gaze had some interest as he eyed Lin Xiuya in the arena who was smiling in all directions. Xiao Yan's heart also contained anticipation.

Lin Xiuya's opponent arrived not long after the former entered the arena. He was a peak expert who was ranked 13th on the 'Strong

Ranking'... however, this expert had a bitter expression similar to what Liu Qing's opponent had earlier today. Given his level, it was not considered too difficult for him to enter the top ten if he had some good luck. Unfortunately, now that he had drawn a lot that caused him to meet Lin Xiuya, a tiger that blocked his road, he basically had no chance of entering the top ten.

There was not much suspense in this battle since the beginning. Although Xiao Yan hoped that the expert who was ranked 13th on the 'Strong Ranking' would be able to force Lin Xiuya to quietly reveal some of his true ability, things did not go the way he desired. Even after the latter displayed all his strength to save himself, Lin Xiuya still maintained his indifferent manner. His green garment fluttered as his long clean hands, which seemed to belong to that of a female, repeatedly tightened their grip. Occasionally, both of his palms would form a strange shape.

Lin Xiuya's opponent was powerless against Lin Xiuya's hands. They remained close to the former's body like a maggot in the tarsal bones. No matter how the former struggled, his attacks were ultimately restricted by his opponent's hands. Additionally, he did not actually manage to touch Lin Xiuya's clothes from the start to the finish.

Xiao Yan narrowed his eyes as he eyed Lin Xiuya's soft snake-like body from the tall platform, which extended and withdrew freely. By relying on the terrain, he was able to clearly absorb the situation of the fight in his eyes. Hence, Xiao Yan was extremely certain that Lin Xiuya's strange pestering hand attack should be a kind of extremely strong close range Dou Technique.

"Hee hee, Liu Qing has his two ultimates, one claw one lance. Being able to surpass him by one level, Lin Xiuya naturally has ultimate skills that are not inferior to those two." Lin Yan's voice suddenly appeared behind Xiao Yan. He smiled proudly when he saw Xiao Yan turning his head to look over, "Do you want to know what they are?"

"Tell me if you want to." Xiao Yan shrugged his shoulders and spoke indifferently. Being clearly aware of Lin Yan's character, this fellow would purposefully refuse to say anything if one were to act curious at this

moment.

As expected, Lin Yan merely helplessly shook his head when he saw Xiao Yan's careless manner. He walked forward. His hands grabbed the guardrail as he eyed the one-sided battle below. He smiled and said, "One pester and one strong."

"One pester and one strong?" Xiao Yan lifted his brows and softly muttered.

"Lin Xiuya has practiced a kind of strange Dou Technique, 'Pestering Snake Hand'. It is just like what you have seen. He is able to use this Dou Technique to completely suppress all your attacks within an extremely small area. Someone with weaker strength would basically be toyed with by him until their attacks would move with his wish." Lin Yan clicked his tongue and spoke with some amazement, "This 'Pestering Snake Hand' and Liu Qing's 'Great Rift Coffin Splitting Claw' are completely different. If the latter is said to be incomparably strong and tough, this 'Pestering Snake Hand' belongs to the type that uses gentle force to subdue a tough one. I have fought with him a couple of times but I was strangely battered by that 'Pestering Snake Hand'. If one were to discuss the degree of formability, this 'Pestering Snake Hand' is even stronger than the 'Great Rift Coffin Splitting Claw' of Liu Qing."

Xiao Yan nodded slightly. His eyes glanced at the arena below and had indeed discovered that as Lin Xiuya moved, his snake-like body was strangely agile. Once those hands were stuck to you, it would likely not be an easy task to escape from them.

"Sticky candy..." The corner of Xiao Yan's mouth moved, and gave Lin Xiuya's Dou Technique an appropriate name.

"What about that so-called one strong?" Xiao Yan softly asked as his eyes flickered.

"Hee hee, I am also not very certain about this one. That 'one strong' of Lin Xiuya is much like Liu Qing's spear. Very few people are able to cause them to use those attacks. However, according to my reasoning, it should be a kind of extremely powerful sword Dou Technique. I have heard

rumors that it is very strong... Back then, even Liu Qing was defeated by this move. After so many years have passed, I think that so-called 'one strong' is even more frightening." Lin Yan rubbed his head and laughed awkwardly. There was an anticipation in his tone after his words sounded.

Xiao Yan nodded and sighed, "He is indeed worthy of being an expert in the Inner Academy, only weaker than Zi Yan. Even though he hid his killing move, an ordinary person was still unable to contend with him."

"There is nothing to be surprised about. Other than a small number of special people, these two people are from the oldest batch of students within the Inner Academy. It is not surprising that they possess such achievements. You, on the other hand, just entered the Inner Academy less than a year ago, yet you already possess the strength to squeeze into the top ten. If one were to talk about it, you are the greatest monster. I think that if you are given enough time, even that 'Brute Strength Queen' would not be your match." Lin Yan glanced at Xiao Yan somewhat strangely. His eyes repeatedly looked in all directions when he spoke the last few words, seemingly afraid that the 'Brute Force Queen' would suddenly appear.

Xiao Yan laughed and said, "Forget it, I don't wish to obtain Zi Yan's position. Otherwise, if I were to anger her, I would not feel well because I would receive a punch from her."

Lin Yan shrugged his shoulders and said, "You are able to sense how much Liu Qing and Lin Xiuya view you seriously. I think that even if they didn't speak it aloud with their mouths, they are very surprised at your current achievement given such an age."

Xiao Yan smiled and softly said, "I will not stay for long in this place. The Inner Academy is merely a temporary stop..."

"Is it because of the matter of that clan of yours? Hee hee, I have also gained some information about you from the mouths of some Elders." The gaze which Lin Yan eyed Xiao Yan with had suddenly become a lot hotter. That heat even had a hint of reverence to it. "Challenging a sect with an elite Dou Zong all by yourself and managing to leave safely after that. I really don't know how an incredible person like you managed to do it."



Xiao Yan was slightly startled before he immediately came to a sudden comprehension. With the strength of Jia Nan Academy, it was likely that it had obtained information about him the first day he entered the academy. Moreover, the matter of him challenging the Misty Cloud Sect had already become extremely well known within the Jia Nan Academy. Anyone would be able to know about it just by random inquiry.

Xiao Yan smiled, but he did not wish to say anything on this topic.

“According to my timeline, I might become an Elder and stay within the Inner Academy for one year if I enter the top ten. If you wish to return to the Jia Ma Empire at that time and don’t resent the company, I will follow you around a little. After all, roaming the continent is something in my future plans.” Lin Yan patted Xiao Yan’s shoulders and laughed.

Xiao Yan raised his head and eyed the smiling face of Lin Yan by his side in a stunned manner. A moment later, he nodded his head somewhat joyfully. With Lin Yan’s strength, it was likely that he would enter the Dou Wang class sooner or later. An expert Dou Wang could be considered quite valuable even in the continent, much less within the Jia Ma Empire. The break out of a clash between the Misty Cloud Sect and himself in the future was unavoidable. If he were to gather some truly strong people by his side, it would be much more relaxing when he decides to make his move against the Misty Cloud Sect.

“I will definitely call you at that time.”

As the two of them conversed, the fight within the arena gradually approached its end. This battle was basically in Lin Xiuya’s control right from the beginning until the end. His gentle snake-like hands adhered to his opponent until the latter felt dazzled and confused. Hence, this battle carried a little amusement, but ended after lasting for around ten minutes.

When Lin Xiuya’s hand quietly pressed on his opponent’s chest, a gentle force suddenly erupted. At that point, everyone knew that this battle had already reached the expected end result.

“Let’s go. There is nothing much to see in the subsequent battles.” Lin Yan waved his hand at Xiao Yan while eying Lin Xiuya’s opponent, who

had been knocked out of the arena below. He took the lead to turn around and walk out of the stadium. As he walked, he said, “Now, let’s just wait for the fight for the top ten tomorrow. However, I don’t know which unlucky three fellows will be eliminated...”

Xiao Yan smiled and nodded. His gaze was thrown into the arena. Coincidentally, Lin Xiuya’s gaze was also thrown over. The two gazes intertwined in mid-air. They smiled to each other but those smiles respectively contained some anticipation and passion within them. Clearly, the two people also had great respect for each other. This was perhaps because of the connection between strong people, allowing them to understand one another. Although the strength of Xiao Yan on the surface did not possess this qualification, Lin Xiuya and any observant person knew that this young man who was a little younger than them had a frightening fighting strength that was comparable to them.

“Hopefully, I will not meet an opponent that will give me too much of a headache tomorrow...” Xiao Yan muttered within his heart. He turned around and walked toward Xun Er and the others outside of the tall platform. Finally, he disappeared from everyone’s sight amid the loud cheers within the stadium.

# Chapter 571: Scroll

The moon was like a silver plate as faint moonlight scattered down from the sky, covering the entire Inner Academy in a layer of obscure silver yarn-like cover.

Xiao Yan sat cross-legged on the bed within his room training continuously. Threads of energy surfaced from his natural surroundings before finally pouring unceasingly into his body.

“Xiao Yan ge-ge, are you asleep?” A soft knock suddenly appeared after the training progressed for nearly an hour. Xun Er’s gentle voice was immediately transmitted into the room.

Xiao Yan slowly opened his eyes and glanced with uncertainty toward the door before speaking with a smile, “Come in.”

The door emitted a sound as it was pushed open and a green-clothed young lady slowly walked in. Under the reflection of the faint moonlight from the window at her side, her elegant and beautiful face caused others to involuntarily revel in it.

The young lady’s tall body stood prettily in front of Xiao Yan. The faint delicate fragrance that came floating over caused Xiao Yan to feel a throbbing in his heart. Without realizing it, that small follower who had wondered about behind him back then had now become watery and moving.

Xiao Yan came down from the bed. His gaze stared at her exquisite watery-like spring pupils. His gaze had quietly become a little passionate as he gently asked, “Is there something?”

A shallow redness surfaced over Xun Er’s white delicate face as she appeared to have sensed the fiery passionate gaze being transmitted from Xiao Yan’s eyes. This little girl’s appearance was completely different from the indifferent manner she usually displayed. It could not be denied that Xun Er possessed extraordinary charm at this moment.

The fiery passion in Xiao Yan’s eyes gradually became increasingly

richer. A man and a woman in a room alone in the dead of night appeared to easily provoke a person into thinking of things that were not proper.

As Xiao Yan's eyes grew increasingly passionate, the embarrassed redness on Xun Er's face also became much richer. A moment later, she suddenly took out a black-colored scroll from her storage ring and stuffed it into Xiao Yan's hands. After which, she turned around and fled. However, Xiao Yan's hand and eyes were fast as he grabbed the latter's clean white jade-like wrist and pulled slightly. Under the young lady's exclamation, Xiao Yan pulled her into his embrace.

The lovely body knocked into Xiao Yan's hug. As she sensed the warmth that was transmitted over from beyond her clothes, the bashful redness on Xun Er's face could basically spill water. After quietly struggling for a moment, she could only give up a pointless resistance as her voice became as tiny as a mosquito, "Don't."

Xiao Yan's hand quietly hugged her narrow waist, which could not even support one full embrace. That comfortable feeling of contact caused Xiao Yan's heart to be filled with joy. He lowered his head and eyed Xun Er, who was bashfully red. He teasingly said, "I say... girl, you have come to my room in the middle of the night. Tell me honestly. What is your motive?"

"The thief that cries thief." Xun Er raised her brows and softly muttered.

Xiao Yan eyed her small pouting mouth which revealed a little woman's grieved manner. His hand which was hugging her delicate waist involuntarily tightened. A hand lifted her smooth chin as his gaze overflowed with a thread of desire. He eyed her mouthwatering, little, sleek, red mouth under Xun Er's widened watery eyes. His head slowly lowered.

"Xiao... Xiao Yan ge-ge. You must keep this thing well." The face of Xun Er, who clearly knew what Xiao Yan wanted to do, expressed a redness that was becoming increasingly richer. Her heart beat rapidly. When the other party's breath pounced on her face, she suddenly took the black-colored scroll that she had just stuffed into Xiao Yan's hand and hurriedly lifted it. She coincidentally blocked the space between their two faces,

which were about to make contact with each other.

Xiao Yan could only cease his movement after being blocked by the scroll. He extended his hand, and took the black-colored scroll.

Xun Er sighed in relief only after sensing Xiao Yan's actions. However, besides sighing in relief, there appeared to be a hesitant feeling in her heart.

Just as Xun Er's gaze was flickering, Xiao Yan, who had received the scroll, randomly stored it into his storage ring. His hands softly held Xun Er's face under her stunned gaze. After which, a face that carried a smile swiftly magnified in her eyes.

The two faces that contained embarrassment and a smile swiftly approached each other within this quiet room. After which... they touched.

A pair, a tall man and woman were in a tight embrace under the moonlight. Each of them released the fiery passion within their hearts.

The kiss between the two of them was somewhat unfamiliar and awkward. However, for a man and woman who had tasted the forbidden fruit for the first time, it was undoubtedly the most ecstatic moment of their lives.

The faces which touched took a long while before they parted. When they finally did, they both carried a heavy panting sound.

Xiao Yan licked his mouth and lowered his head to eye the young lady in his embrace. His heart which had originally quieted a little immediately leaped wildly.

At this moment, threads of black hair dangled in front of the forehead of the young lady in his embrace. Her pupils, which were always filled with a smile for him, appeared to contain a little feeling of love. Those pupils were like waves of spring water, which contained a bewitching feeling amid her purity. Under this attraction, Xiao Yan could even sense a fiery heat gradually brewing within Xiao Yan's lower abdomen.

The bodies of these two people were basically stuck together. Hence, Xiao Yan had merely displayed a slight action when Xun Er, who was

snagled weakly in his embrace, fled like a shocked deer. She hurriedly stepped away from Xiao Yan's embrace and said with an embarrassed red face, "Xiao Yan ge-ge, don't be a rogue."

Xiao Yan laughed when he saw Xun Er in this manner. He could only withdraw the desire in his heart. Once again, he licked his mouth and savored the ecstatic softness earlier. A smile at the corner of his lips involuntarily expanded.

Xun Er's face was bright red upon seeing this proud manner of Xiao Yan. She viciously rolled her eyes at him. However, after experiencing such intense emotions, even this dirty look appeared exceptionally bewitching.

Xiao Yan once again smiled. He was also someone who would leave things be. He knew that this girl was a little too shy over that manner. Therefore, he ceased teasing and lazily sat on a soft chair in one corner. He randomly took out the black-colored scroll that Xun Er had handed over earlier. His eyes drifted over it, only to have the surprise on his face become denser.

The scroll was completely black in color but its luster was extremely dark and solemn. If one were to look at it carefully, one would even be able to discover that this scroll emitted an extremely faint black glow. Moreover, various kinds of unusual lines were drawn above the scroll. They wrapped all around, just like 'tadpole writing' (Yi Script), which was complex and unpredictable.

TL: tadpole writing (Yi Script) – a complex form of ancient writing which looks somewhat like tadpole.

The black-colored scroll flipped over his hand. Xiao Yan was once again stunned to realize that the substance the scroll was created with was a little strange. There was not a spot where one could open it. Its entire body was just like a bamboo scroll and was completely different from an ordinary scroll.

"What is this?" Xiao Yan raised his head doubtfully as he waved the scroll in his hand toward Xun Er and asked.

At this moment, the flush redness on Xun Er's face became much paler.

However, there was still a little embarrassment visible. She took repeated steps and gently shifted to Xiao Yan's side before smiling while saying, "A scroll containing a Dou Technique. However, one must be at the Dou Wang class before one can open it."

Xiao Yan's hand trembled upon hearing this. He nearly dropped the scroll in his hand onto the ground. A Dou Technique that required the strength of a Dou Wang before it can be opened? This was something that he had met for the first time...

"What class is this Dou Technique?" The smile on Xiao Yan's face gradually withdrew as he inquired seriously.

"Won't Xiao Yan ge-ge know when you open it?" Xun Er shook her head and avoided Xiao Yan's question.

"This thing... is too valuable..." Xiao Yan knit his brows. However, before he had finished speaking, a pair of resentful eyes were shot over from his side, causing him to stop his mouth in an awkward manner.

"Since we were children, Xiao Yan ge-ge has never accepted anything from Xun Er." Xun Er softly sighed.

"Alright, alright, I will accept it..." Xiao Yan laughed bitterly upon seeing Xun Er's resentful manner. He hesitated for a moment and nodded his head. He was an alpha male, and it was difficult for him to accept it in short notice when Xun Er suddenly took out something this extraordinary.

"Remember, you must wait until you enter the Dou Wang class before you can open it and practice it. Otherwise, it will end up being detrimental to you instead," Xun Er reminded in a soft voice. Her resentful face immediately revealed a beautiful smile when she saw that Xiao Yan had accepted the scroll.

"Yes." Xiao Yan nodded his head. His eyes were shining as he studied the green-clothed young lady opposite of him.

Xun Er's pretty face stared intently at Xiao Yan. After which, she said in an extremely serious low voice, "Additionally, Xiao Yan ge-ge, you must definitely remember Xun Er's words regarding the 'Tou She Ancient God's

Jade'. Otherwise, you will end up in extremely great trouble. Now, you still do not have the strength to possess it. Hence, you must definitely not leak news about it!"

Xiao Yan did not dare to joke as he eyed the serious manner of Xun Er. He simply nodded gently.

"Ke ke, in that case, Xun Er will return to my room first. Xiao Yan ge-ge, have a good rest. There is still a great intense battle tomorrow." Xun Er gave Xiao Yan a sweet smile after saying this before immediately walking out of the door.

Xiao Yan frowned slightly as he watched Xun Er's back which had disappeared. For some unknown reason, he kept having the feeling that the recent Xun Er was a little strange, repeatedly leaving instructions for some things...

"Perhaps I am thinking too much?" Xiao Yan moved his hand after shutting the door. The black-colored scroll once again appeared in his hand. In a deep voice, he asked, "Teacher, can you see what kind of skill is in this scroll?"

"No, there is a special seal on top of the scroll. One has to forcefully break it open, otherwise, no one will know what Dou Technique is inside." Yao Lao's voice sounded not long later, "However, with that identity and background of this little girlfriend of yours, a Dou Technique that causes her to attach such importance to is definitely not an ordinary thing."

Xiao Yan nodded quietly. A flicker slowly flashed in his eyes before he finally let out a soft sigh.

.....

"Xiao-jie, you have given that thing to Young Master Xiao Yan?" Ling Ying was somewhat stunned as he eyed the young lady in front of him within a room that contained a delicate fragrance. Those watery eyes of hers still revealed a faint embarrassment that was difficult to sense.

Xun Er merely randomly nodded her head in the face of Lin Ying's question. That manner was as though the thing that she had gave was



merely an ordinary item.

“That is something that the clan head took great pains to...” Ling Ying smiled bitterly as he spoke. This generosity...

“Xiao Yan ge-ge is more suitable for it than me.” Xun Er replied with a faint smile. She immediately waved her hand and said, “Old Ling, don’t let others know about this matter. Even father cannot know.”

“This... alright.” Ling Ying merely hesitated for a moment before sighing helplessly. His body immediately twitched, turning into a shadow that disappeared into the darkness.

“Xiao Yan ge-ge, Xun Er has done all that she can do. It is up to you to navigate the path of a strong person. Hopefully, when we meet again in the future, you will be able to become a truly strong person. So strong that Xun Er could only look up to you.” Xun Er held the warm tea cup as her soft words quietly sounded within her heart.

# Chapter 572: Contesting for the Top Ten

Night slowly elapsed under the flow of time. When the last sliver of the moon disappeared from the horizon, a faint light began to expel the darkness of the land.

Following the first rays of sunlight scattering into the Inner Academy, the quiet atmosphere immediately announced its disappearance. Today was the day that the top ten of the 'Strong Ranking' Grand Competition were to be determined. With the progression of the Grand Competition up to this point, it could basically be said that it had entered a true climax. All the students of the Inner Academy were awaiting the new top ten experts on the 'Strong Ranking' to be chosen.

The spacious stadium was crowded by many people in an extremely short period of time. A passionate noisy sound repeatedly reverberated by everyone's ears. That fiery hot atmosphere infected everyone who entered the arena.

By the time Xiao Yan and the others had arrived at the tall platform, the place had already become overcrowded. Over half of the competitors had been eliminated after the two days of elimination, but it was extremely good for those people to observe a match at such a high level even if they could no longer participate.

At this moment, Xiao Yan had undoubtedly become the biggest dark horse in this season's 'Strong Ranking' Grand Competition. He already possessed the qualification to charge into the top ten after having merely entered the Inner Academy less than a year ago. This strength was sufficient to cause an ordinary person to be shocked. Hence, he attracted many gazes the moment he had entered.

Ignoring the gazes from all around, Xiao Yan's group arrived at the seats they had occupied yesterday before sitting down. They conversed and smiled with one another while waiting for the competition to begin.

Xiao Yan's group had just sat down when a small lovely figure strangely appeared in front of them. A long pale-purple pony tail and a cute carved-

jade appearance possessed quite a great lethality toward both male and female.

Zi Yan continued smiling quietly at Xiao Yan the moment she appeared.

Xiao Yan glanced at Zi Yan in front of him, who had disappeared for an entire day. His face was immediately filled with surprise. At this moment, the latter's clothes were a little tattered. Bruises actually covered her delicate hand and arm.

"What did you do?" Xiao Yan could not help but ask when he saw this pitiful manner of Zi Yan.

"I have roamed around within the deep mountains and found a spiritual medicine that caught my eye after much difficulty. In the end, I met a Dou Huang class Magical Beast guarding it. I fought with it. I couldn't beat it, so I fled back." Zi Yan twitched her lips and said in an uninterested manner.

Xiao Yan and the others did not know how to react upon hearing this at first. This girl was indeed abnormal. She actually dared to go and find trouble with a Dou Huang class Magical Beast. It really was the case of the young being fearless.

"Chi. That fellow didn't fare much better than me. It received some firm punches from me and was beaten until its skin broke to reveal raw flesh." When she saw Xiao Yan's expression, Zi Yan immediately became unhappy as she sneered.

Xiao Yan raised his brows. He did not think that Zi Yan was lying. Although her strength was that of a Dou Wang on the surface, that strange strength of hers was so frightening that it caused one's hair to stand. It was likely that even the strong body a Magical Beast would not be unharmed after being struck by a full force punch.

"Hee hee, Xiao Yan, shall we go together the next time around? I will hold back that fellow, and you can go and take the spiritual medicine." Zi Yan suddenly came forward and stopped with her face close to Xiao Yan's. She made a suggestion as she laughed.

Xiao Yan immediately rolled his eyes weakly when he heard these words. The last time around, he had spent a great amount of effort just to deal with a Dou Wang class 'Snow Demon Sky Ape'. Was it not asking him to seek bitterness by getting him to deal with a Dou Huang class?

Xiao Yan carelessly dealt with it with a couple sentences. He immediately sensed commotion had occurred in the surrounding atmosphere and turned his head in surprised. The figures of Lin Xiuya and his group had appeared at the entrance of the stadium. As the most dazzling star in the Inner Academy, the commotion which he stirred was naturally even greater than that of Xiao Yan earlier. The numerous gazes that had suddenly shifted truly caused one to sense the kind of unmovable reputation and status he had within the Inner Academy.

The moment Lin Xiuya and the others entered, they directly rushed toward the position where Xiao Yan was at.

"Hopefully, we will not meet each other as the six people that are selected today. I don't wish to meet you at such a pivotal moment." A hearty laugh was transmitted into Xiao Yan's ear before Lin Xiuya arrived in person. His voice viewed Xiao Yan extremely seriously, causing those in the crowd around them to throw a surprised gaze toward Xiao Yan. The people in the Inner Academy who could be viewed this seriously by Lin Xiuya were existences as rare a unicorn horn or a phoenix feather.

"If that is really the case, I'm afraid that I am the one who is unlucky." Xiao Yan laughed. He similarly did not wish to meet with Lin Xiuya at such a moment. His target was merely the top ten. As long as he could successfully enter the top ten, then he would no longer have anything to fear. At that time, he would also not need to worry about meeting an extremely troublesome opponent.

"Who would dare cause you to be unlucky with me protecting you?" An old fashioned voice sounded from behind Xiao Yan. Immediately, Zi Yan leaped onto her chair and looked down from a higher vantage point as she patted Xiao Yan's shoulders. She immediately stared at Lin Xiuya disdainfully. Two small fists were pressed against each other as she said, "Brat, it is best that we don't meet up later. Otherwise, even if you jump

down from the arena, I will also chase after you and beat you up.”

Zi Yan, who had suddenly jumped up, caused the smile on Lin Xiuya’s face to be greatly withdrawn. He spoke in an embarrassed manner, “That is only natural. Who in this Inner Academy can oppose Senior Zi Yan?”

“Consider yourself sensible.” Zi Yan smiled proudly. She was just thinking of piling up some vicious words when Xiao Yan at her side hurriedly pulled at her ponytail and got her down from the chair. He ignored her struggle as he pressed her behind him before shrugging his shoulders and smiling bitterly to Lin Xiuya.

Lin Xiuya was dumbfounded as he watched Zi Yan who was forcefully pressed behind Xiao Yan. Although she was struggling, it was clear that it was merely just like a little child misbehaving. Since when did this ‘Brute Force Queen’ not get angry after being treated in this manner by others? If this was in the past, whoever dared press down on her head would likely be captured and beaten until their face was black and blue even if they fled to the Outer Academy.

“What kind of medicine did this little fellow Xiao Yan give the ‘Brute Force Queen’? He is actually able to have such a good relationship with her?” Lin Xiuya muttered a little within his heart and did not dare to stop for long. If Zi Yan was to point at his nose and curse loudly at this place, it was likely that everyone would quietly laugh even though they knew the terror of this little girl. Hence, he swiftly spoke a couple of sentences to Xiao Yan before hurriedly leading some people to their seats.

Xiao Yan’s group could not resist smiling as they watch Lin Xiuya beat a hasty retreat. It was really unexpected that this fellow with the most dazzling reputation within the Inner Academy would actually be this fearful of Zi Yan. It really was the case of one being subduing another.

Another very respected competitor, Liu Qing also entered the stadium not long after Lin Xiuya arrived. Originally, his path also required him to walk passed the spot in front of Xiao Yan’s group. However, his sharp eyes caught sight of that little girl with a pale-purple ponytail seated beside Xiao Yan the moment he entered the arena. His expression changed a

little without leaving any trace. Immediately, he took a turn nonchalantly and bypassed Xiao Yan's group.

Although this change in Liu Qing's route was extremely obscure, it was still discovered by some sharp-eyed people. Immediately, they could not help but laugh. All of these top people within this Inner Academy had lost the bearing that a strong person should have in front of this cute little girl.

The number of people in the stadium also increased as time flowed by. Noisy voices were mixed together before climbing to the clouds.

Once the Elders on the judges' seats also took their seats, a 'gong' sound finally reverberated in the stadium.

The moment the gong sounded, the noisiness that had spread throughout the arena slowly fell. Numerous gazes were thrown toward the judges' seats.

Su Qian arranged his clothes in front of the attention of the entire stadium. He slowly stood up and said in loud clear voice, "After two days of elimination, there are still thirteen people remaining in the 'Strong Ranking' Grand Competition. In order to enter the top ten, there must be three people who are eliminated today. According to the rules of the Grand Competition, we will randomly pick six people to compete. The winners will enter the top ten while those who lose can only be ranked behind."

The moment Su Qian's voice sounded, he took out a bamboo cylinder and placed it in front of him. There were thirteen paper lots within the cylinder.

"The thirteen paper lots have the names of the last thirteen competitors. I will randomly pick those six people who need to compete." The atmosphere in the stadium had become more tense following the introduction of the bamboo cylinder. Many people stared in an unblinking manner at the judges' seats. The deciding factor of the top ten names were all determined by this.

Su Qian slowly drew a piece of paper in front of everyone's gazes. He took a glance before immediately reading out loud, "Yan Hao."

As Su Qian's voice sounded, everyone could clearly see Yan Hao's face abruptly tighten on the tall platform.

"The next name that is drawn will be Yan Hao's opponent to determine who will enter the top ten." Su Qian once again drew a piece of paper as he spoke in an indifferent manner. He immediately opened it and his gaze drifted over it. He said, "Qian Mo."

Numerous gazes followed the voice and turned toward a somewhat fat man on the tall platform. Qian Mo was ranked 8th on the 'Strong Ranking' and had an extremely great strength. He was also at the peak of the Dou Ling class like Yan Hao. However, if they were to really fight, he was much weaker than Yan Hao. Hence, the moment Qian Mo heard his opponent was Yan Hao, his brows immediately knit together.

Su Qian ignored the gazes in the stadium. He continued drawing a piece of paper and opened it, only to be startled. Immediately, he shook his head somewhat helplessly. "Zi Yan."

"Hua..." (Clamor)

The moment the name sounded, even Lin Xiuya, Liu Qing, and the others on the tall platform abruptly raised their hearts.

Su Qian clearly understood their emotion. He quietly smiled and slowly drew the lot that would cause someone to be extremely depressed. "Qin Zhen."

"Hu..." Everyone on the tall platform let out a long breath. Immediately, their faces carried a sympathetic look as they eyed a pale-faced man. This pitiful fellow. Even though he was ranked 6th on the 'Strong Ranking', it was likely that there would not be the slightest tension when meeting that 'Brute Force Queen'.

"The last lot."

Su Qian shook his hand from the judges' seats. A paper lot was sucked into his palm before he slowly opened it and opened his mouth with some surprise, "Liu Qing."

The entire stadium was once again silent. Some people muttered in their

heart. Looks like there will be another unlucky fellow appearing.

Liu Qing's expression did not fluctuate even a little. As long as his opponent was not Zi Yan, he would not be the least bit afraid even if he were to meet Lin Xiuya at this point.

Seemingly in an attempt to increase everyone's anticipation, Su Qian slowly took out the final lot. He waved it toward everyone before laughing softly and opening it. Soon after this, the smile on his face was withdrawn and he was completely stunned.

The hearts of everyone in the stadium were like that of cat claws when they saw this manner of his.

"Cough..." Su Qian finally recovered a moment later. His gaze was slowly thrown toward a spot on the tall platform and helplessly shook his head.

"Xiao Yan!"

The entire stadium was silent. Under a wave of regretful sighs, they immediately eyed the black-robed, young man on the tall platform with brows knit together.



# Chapter 573: The Contest Between The Novice Dark Horse And A Veteran Expert

Everyone on the tall platform looked at each other. It was really unexpected that the biggest dark horse would meet a true tiger that would block his path at such a critical juncture. It was likely that only Zi Yan and Lin Xiuya possessed the strength to fight Liu Qing in the Inner Academy. Although Xiao Yan's performance in the two battles earlier had been impeccable, there was undoubtedly still an extremely large gap when compared to a true peak expert on the 'Strong Ranking' like Liu Qing.

"This Xiao Yan can be considered to be unlucky..." Yan Hao sighed as he spoke to Lin Xiuya beside him.

Han Yue also knit her brows slightly. Although she already held a high opinion of Xiao Yan's strength, she had no choice but to admit that there was still a big gap when one truly compared him with a strong person like Liu Qing.

Lin Xiuya's expression was calm. No one knew what he was thinking. It was a long while later before he softly spoke, "We should come to the conclusion after the match. Although I also think that the chances of Xiao Yan losing are high, I also cannot deny that he similarly has some chance of victory. His match with Liu Qing, ugh... it is difficult to say."

The few people by his side nodded slightly. Their gazes involuntarily swept toward Liu Qing's position. At this moment, the forehead of the latter also displayed extremely faint surprise. However, he did not reveal too much of an emotional fluctuation. His mind was calm, appearing similar to Lin Xiuya.

Compared to Liu Qing's calmness, Liu Fei beside him had nearly involuntarily leaped up and cheered loudly. The defeat of Yao Sheng at Xiao Yan's hands yesterday had caused her to hold back a stomach full of anger. Originally, she was cursing Xiao Yan in hope that he would meet her brother Liu Qing in the competition, but it was really unexpected that the latter was really this unlucky to collide with Liu Qing in this most

crucial match. This pleasant surprise that had suddenly appeared caused her to proudly spit out a word in her heart: "Retribution."

"Ugh." Wu Hao patted Xiao Yan's shoulders somewhat helplessly. He wanted to say something only to realize that he had nothing to say. He could only let out a sigh.

"Hey, Xiao Yan, why don't I help you beat up Liu Qing until he cannot turn up for the match? That way, you can advance directly." Zi Yan swung her purple-colored ponytail as she waved her fist toward Xiao Yan and said.

"Please, can you have a little more confidence in me?" Xiao Yan shook his head with a bitter smile. He rubbed Zi Yan's head and looked all around him, discovering that with the exception of Xun Er, the expressions of the others were somewhat solemn. He could not help but laugh helplessly, "Although my opponent is Liu Qing, you all don't need to show this kind of wailing manner, no? The match has yet to even begin."

Wu Hao and the others could only forcefully smile when they heard this. They knew just how importantly Xiao Yan viewed the top ten positions. Now that such an event, that left one helpless, had appeared at the most critical juncture, it was likely that Xiao Yan was also extremely frustrated.

Xiao Yan did not know whether to laugh or cry as he eyed these people who appeared even more dispirited than him. Although Liu Qing was very strong, no one knew who would end up victorious if they were to really go all out and fight. If he were to completely unleash everything with his current strength, forget about an elite Dou Wang, Xiao Yan would even be able to cause a Dou Huang to be in an extremely miserable state. After all, once a true large-scale 'Angry Buddha Lotus Flame' was unleashed, the destructive force that caused even Yao Lao to be extremely shocked was not something simple.

Of course, the side-effect of a large-scale 'Angry Buddha Lotus Flame' was far too great. Unless it was a life and death situation, Xiao Yan would not easily use it. This thing was also his true last hidden trump card.

The private conversations in the stadium continued for awhile before

everyone once again threw their gazes back to the judges' seats.

Su Qian's gaze slowly withdrew from the spot where Xiao Yan was at. In his heart, he could only hope that this young man, who controlled a 'Heavenly Flame' at such a young age, would once again be able to display a miracle and charge into the top ten even after being blocked by a strong person like Liu Qing.

"The first match, Yan Hao, Qian Mo!"

As Su Qian's soft cry sounded, the atmosphere in the stadium suddenly turned away from Xiao Yan's misfortune. Numerous gazes were thrown toward those two fellows on the tall platform.

Yan Hao was the first to stand up under the eyes of all the people. The expression of this man whose figure was not any thinner than Liu Qing did not change as he walked to the edge of the tall platform. After which, he leaped down and landed heavily in the arena.

Once Yan Hao entered the arena, that somewhat fat Qian Mo also helplessly stood up. After which, the fat on his entire body shook as he came to the edge of the tall platform. The muscles on his body shrank and a faint wind agglomerated around his body. Immediately, that large body slowly drifted down into the arena like a balloon in front of the stunned audience.

"He actually practices wind affinity Dou Qi..." Countless of people involuntarily wiped their cold sweat. The elegant and agile wind affinity Dou Qi really had a completely different feeling to it when it was used by this person in this manner.

Although his other appearance was not too elegant, everyone understood in their hearts that a person who was able to occupy a spot in the top ten of the 'Strong Ranking' was a person with extremely frightening strength. One would definitely lose some blood if one were to judge a book by its cover.

The atmosphere in the viewing gallery immediately became fiery hot as the two people entered the arena. The two of them were existences within the top ten on the 'Strong Ranking'. It must be said that this fight could be

considered to be extremely exciting.

After a soft, 'let the match begin' by Su Qian, the two people in the arena immediately drew their weapons. Yan Hao's weapon was still that dark-black enormous metal hammer while Qian Mo bared a circular sawtooth golden-colored item from his storage ring under everyone's stunned gazes. The circular yellow-colored sawtooth disc was merely the size of a palm. However, the numerous sharp sawteeth on its edge faintly contained a cold penetrating glow.

"It is rumored that this weapon of Qian Mo is called Golden Sawtooth Disc. It has shocking momentum when thrown. Moreover, it is extremely accurate and vicious. If ten of these Golden Sawtooth Discs were to be thrown out together, it would be something that would really cause one to have a headache." Wu Hao softly spoke to Xiao Yan from the side.

"Oh?" Xiao Yan lifted his brows in a somewhat interested manner. He did not expect that this fatty actually had such an unexpected tactic. It appeared that those who were able to enter the top ten did indeed have some skill.

Qian Mo cupped his hands toward Yan Hao while the viewing gallery was engaged in waves of private conversations. He laughed dryly, "Big brother Yan, you must be a little gentler when you strike. If that black metal hammer of yours were to smash down, this body of mine would immediately become a pile of mince meat."

"Don't give me that nonsense. Fat Qian, it has been a long time since I met you. I wonder just how much stronger that Golden Sawtooth disc is compared to the past?" Yan Hao scolded with a smile. He waved the black metal hammer in his hand. The sharp rushing sound of wind created caused the people in the viewing platform around to involuntarily cover their ears.

The fat flesh on Qian Mo's face twitched as he laughed out loud. His expression immediately became solemn as he held a golden sawtooth disc in his right hand. Dense Dou Qi surged out explosively from his body as waves of rotating wind formed around him. Finally, it agglomerated into

the sawtooth disc under the former's control.

“Hah!”

A low voice suddenly sounded. Qian Mo's hand suddenly trembled and the golden sawtooth disc flickered and emitted a golden light, much like a golden bolt of lightning. It shot explosively toward Yan Hao.

The golden-colored disc's speed was so quick that it was terrifying. Everyone could vaguely see a golden-colored line flash across their eyes when the lightning struck Yan Hao.

“Bang!”

The dark-black metal hammer viciously smashed against the ground. Immediately, a thick arm-sized crack line swiftly spread on the ground. Waves of extremely powerful dark-yellow energy shot out from the crack lines and coincidentally struck the golden-yellow lightning, smashing it until it charged directly into the sky.

“Again! There are still nine cycles of the ‘Ten Cycle Qian’... Ha ha!” Yan Hao laughed out loud. The Dou Qi in his body flowed swiftly. The skin on the surface of his body had turned into a rock-like state at this moment, emitting a grayish-white color.

Qian Mo laughed bitterly and sighed. Yan Hao's Dou Qi belonged to the ground affinity type. Moreover, it was the extremely rare rock Dou Qi. This kind of Dou Qi would enable the practitioner's body to turn as hard as rock, which coincidentally restrained his golden sawtooth discs.

“Qian Mo is suppressed by Yan Hao both in terms of strength and affinity. It looks like it is very difficult for him to be victorious. Moreover, using the golden sawtooth discs consumes a lot of Dou Qi. With his strength, he is merely able to display ten strong attacks. Hence, Qian Mo also has a nickname within the Inner Academy called ‘Ten Cycle Qian’.” Wu Hao appeared like a commentator as he repeatedly explained to Xiao Yan the various names that the latter had not heard of.

Xiao Yan nodded slightly. These kinds of golden sawtooth discs were not very suitable for this kind of open competition. The place where its entire

strength could be displayed should be when it was used as a sneak attack. Just imagine, if one or two such golden sawtooth discs were to be shot out suddenly and unexpectedly from a corner when one was walking in the mountain forest, would it not cause one to have a headache and be frightened?

Qian Mo was also clear of his own weakness within the arena. However, he did not have any other choice. Back then, his teacher had already said that if he were to become an assassin, it was likely that he would fare very well. However, if he were to face a fight head on, his fighting strength would be greatly reduced.

One after another, incomparably sharp golden sawtooth discs shot out explosively from Qian Mo's hands in a lighting-like manner. However, regardless of how tricky he was, they did not have much of an affect on Yan Hao. This was because the latter had basically used all his Dou Qi on his defense. Even if Yan Hao was occasionally unable to block a disc, the sharp golden sawtooth discs would merely leave behind a long pale-white scar on his body.

Although using all his Dou Qi to defend in this manner was extremely exhausting, it was much better when compared to Qian Mo's usage of the golden sawtooth discs. Therefore, this battle of the two of them was basically fighting to see whose Dou Qi was more powerful...

This fight where one party was attacking and the other party was defending may be extremely interesting in the eyes of some ordinary students, but it was somewhat boring for Xiao Yan and the others. This was because all of them knew that Qian Mo had already descended into a disadvantage in this match. This was because the full force of his attack was unable to break the full strength of Yan Hao's defense.

After the match continued for nearly half an hour, Qian Mo finally helplessly waved his hands. He stored the last two golden sawtooth discs in his hands away and obediently admitted defeated in front of the stunned gazes all around him.

Qian Mo's admission of his loss was within the expectations of Xiao Yan

and the others. After waiting for a short while, the second match also followed.

Zi Yan vs. Qin Zhen. A match where the disparity of strength was even greater...

Zi Yan flashed and entered the arena at the first opportunity. Yesterday, her heart was filled with a fiery anger because of that Dou Huang class Magical Beast. Now, she anxiously needed someone to help vent her anger. Therefore, the moment she entered the arena, she drew up her sleeves. Her dark-black large eyes viciously swept over the tall platform.

The many people on the tall platform shrank their necks as they eyed this manner of Zi Yan. Their hearts repeatedly mourned for Qin Zhen.

However, Qin Zhen did not show himself after Zi Yan had descended into the arena. Just as everyone became somewhat impatient, a weak voice finally sounded, "Qin Zhen said that he has a stomachache and cannot participate in the competition..."

The entire stadium was silent. Immediately, they felt at a loss. This... was too comical, no?

Xiao Yan and the others rubbed their somewhat stiff faces. Just what did Zi Yan do in the past? She actually caused all these experts on the strong ranking to be this worried or even fearful...

Su Qian and the other Elders also helplessly shook their heads. However, they did not blame anyone. They similarly clearly understood that Zi Yan was basically a monster-like existence on the 'Strong Ranking'. Even someone like Lin Xiuya and Liu Qing would not dare to pluck the tiger's whiskers, much less anyone else.

"Cough... since Qin Zhen has admitted defeat, let's start the last fight for the top ten position." Su Qian stood up, let out a cough before immediately speaking in a slow manner.

As Su Qian words fell, the numerous gazes in the stadium immediately turned to the tall platform. Finally, they stopped on Xiao Yan's and Liu Qing's bodies.

The third match today was likely the one everyone anticipated the most.  
The contest between the novice dark horse and the veteran expert.



# Chapter 574: Seething

The entire stadium was silent. The gazes of everyone were all gathered on the two people on the tall platform.

Liu Qing was the first to move under the observation of everyone. He slowly stood up and immediately strode to the edge of the tall platform under Liu Fei's worshipping gaze. Finally, his body flashed and leaped down.

Liu Qing's legs stomped heavily onto the arena. He raised his head, and his gaze turned toward the position where Xiao Yan was located. His eyes had some fieriness within them. The opponent that he viewed the most highly within this 'Strong Ranking' Grand Competition was Lin Xiuya. He did not view any other competitors too seriously. However, the significantly strong fighting strength that Xiao Yan had displayed during these past two days was also able to cause a strong person like Liu Qing to pay attention and view him a little more seriously. Being able to fight with this dark horse that had caught the most attention before his fight with Lin Xiuya was much like having an appetizer before the big meal. Hence, his interest in this match was quite great.

As Liu Qing entered the arena, all the gazes in the stadium immediately gathered onto Xiao Yan alone. Many people wanted to know whether this new student dark horse would be able to maintain his continuous victory like he did in the past now that he was faced with Liu Qing, a veteran top expert.

Wu Hao and the others helplessly shook their heads as they sensed the focus of the entire stadium. They immediately turned their heads to watch Xiao Yan beside them.

Xiao Yan's expression did not change under the focus of the entire stadium. He did not even feel a little fear because his opponent was Liu Qing. He stood up and slowly walked to the edge of the tall platform.

"Xiao Yan ge-ge, all the best." Xun Er's gentle encouragement was transmitted from behind him.

Xiao Yan did not turn his head around. He merely waved his hand behind him as his toes pressed on the ground. A faint silver glow surfaced under his feet as his body immediately flashed. In the blink of an eye, he appeared in that spacious arena.

Xiao Yan's feet gently stepped onto the arena. He raised his head and his gaze coincidentally intertwined with Liu Qing on the opposite side. Four eyes studied each other and some unknown feelings were mixed in their eyes.

From Xiao Yan's perspective, he had been doing his utmost to avoid colliding head on with a strong person like Liu Qing or Lin Xiuya because he must enter the top ten. The plan for the 'Fallen Heart Flame' was far too important to him. He must ensure that nothing would go wrong. Therefore, he had been adopting the attitude of avoidance whenever he could. Now, however, there was nowhere to run. This caused a true fiery hot fighting intent to appear in his heart. Although Xiao Yan's desire for a fight was not as crazy as Wu Hao or the others, he would still feel the surge of fighting intent within his heart when he met a truly strong person.

"Since I cannot avoid this current fight, I shall totally let go and fight!" Xiao Yan let out a deep breath as he muttered in his heart.

"Hopefully, you will not disappoint me." Liu Qing suddenly opened his mouth as his gaze focused on Xiao Yan. His voice was somewhat suppressed, but it also contained his aura, carrying a taste of sharp tyranny.

"I will naturally go all out." Xiao Yan smiled. His hand grabbed the ruler's hilt on his back as he abruptly drew it. The heavy ruler was tilted slightly to the ground, and a pressuring wind carrying a humming sound appeared.

Liu Qing glanced at the heavy ruler in Xiao Yan's hand. Surprise flashed across his eyes. Since the time when Xiao Yan fought with Bai Cheng, he knew that this enormous ruler may perhaps have some strangeness to it. Now that he was facing it personally and could hear the pressuring sound

of wind being split, he could confirm in his heart that this black ruler in his opponent's hands was likely just like his Mountain Splitting Spear, extremely heavy.

"No wonder his attack increases instead of decreases when the heavy ruler leaves his hand. He actually carries the heavy ruler frequently and treats it as training." A strange thought flashed across his heart. Liu Qing could not help but have a little higher opinion of Xiao Yan. Being able to persevere in using this kind of method to train was something that only a person with a strong mental strength could do.

While this thought revolved around his heart, Liu Qing did not immediately draw the Mountain Splitting Spear on his back that he had not used. His somewhat large hands were slowly extended out. They curled occasionally and widened at other times, forming numerous strange claw-like arcs.

"Don't say that I am underestimating you. I will only use the Mountain Splitting Spear on opponents who are qualified. I hope that you will possess this qualification." Liu Qing glanced at Xiao Yan and spoke faintly. One of his claw-like hands hacked in front of him abruptly. An invisible wind shot out, and left behind a couple of tiny dents on the ground.

Xiao Yan smiled, but did not reply. Unless one displayed a strength that would truly cause their opponent to take him or her seriously, a person like Liu Qing, who possessed great strength, would not view you seriously. Xiao Yan thought that if it was not because he had quite a good performance in the few matches earlier, it was likely that Liu Qing would have been too lazy to even bother saying these words to him.

The conversation of the two people in the arena was also transmitted to the viewing gallery at the edge. However, no one felt that Liu Qing was arrogant and haughty. Instead, they quietly praised him in their hearts. He was indeed worthy of the name Tyrant Spear Liu Qing. Who could beat him with such arrogance? This was the gap that was brought about by strength. If Liu Qing did not possess this kind of strength, it was likely that he would be scolded by others as being overly wild and presumptuous in their hearts when he voiced such words.

On the high platform, Liu Fei's pretty face contained love and tenderness as she eyed the wide and heavy back that would cause people to feel extremely secure. That arrogant sharp aura caused her to be intoxicated with love.

"Hmph, just watch carefully. Look at how elder cousin will defeat that fellow." Liu Fei suddenly let out a soft snort as she tilted her head and spoke to the somewhat pale-faced Yao Sheng beside her.

"Given chief's strength, defeating Xiao Yan is naturally as easy as flipping his hand. No matter how he jumps, he is but a little worm who will ultimately have a hard time causing any large wave." Yao Sheng's gaze stared at Xiao Yan in the arena in a dark, cold manner. His defeat in the latter's hands this time around was quite a big blow to him. Hence, he, being a little narrow-minded, naturally placed all of the blame of the humiliation that he had received from his defeat onto Xiao Yan. As he spoke these words, however, he had forgotten about what that would make him, after having been beaten by a person whom he thought of as a worm.

The pride on Liu Fei's face immediately became a little richer after Yao Sheng's words. Those pretty eyes swept across that green-clothed young lady on the opposite side of the tall platform who was elegantly seated. She clenched her silver teeth. The other party's appearance was something that she could not find any flaw with, even from the perspective of a woman. However, it was because of this perfection of the other party that she ultimately bore a grudge. The phrase, 'women are jealous creatures' was completely true.

As private conversations sounded from all over the tall platform. Su Qian waved his hands slightly from the audience seat. The voices of the entire stadium became much softer.

Su Qian's gaze eyed the two people who were facing each other within the arena. Even with his strength, he could not help but form some anticipation. Although it appeared that there was a large gap between the two, this match still retained one suspense after another. Perhaps other people might think that Liu Qing had a higher chances of victory, but his

many years of experience told him that Xiao Yan's chances of victory was likely not low. Even with his old sharp eyes, he was unable to see just who would win or lose this battle.

"Since the competitors have already arrived, then I will announce that this last match that determines the last name in the top ten will officially begin!" Su Qian's gaze looked all around him as his faint voice arrived slowly under the anticipation of the countless number of people.

As Su Qian's voice fell, a boiling atmosphere immediately covered the entire stadium. Numerous fiery hot gazes were firmly focused on the two people in the arena. They clearly understood that this fight, which was perhaps the most exciting fight since the start of the Grand Competition, was about to begin.

An extremely tyrannical aura suddenly erupted from Liu Qing's body within the arena after Su Qian's voice sounded. The strength of this aura was something that caused even the audience, who were a great distance away, to feel difficulty breathing.

As a wave of pale-golden Dou Qi surged out from Liu Qing's body, his large claw-like hands also appeared to once again expand a little at this moment. As his knuckles were slightly bent, they emitted a clear sound just like beans being crushed.

The claw-like hands that were curled into a strange arc randomly tore at the air in front of him. Immediately, the air rippled and a partially visible air scar appeared in the area where his claw-like hands passed before being swiftly annihilated.....

Although many people had never faced it head on, they were still able to feel a powerful suppression from the overbearing aura that Liu Qing emitted. Hence, there were quite a number of people who felt an admiration toward Xiao Yan who maintained an expression as calm as an old well while standing in the arena.

The seals were quickly formed on Xiao Yan's hands. An instant later, the green-colored flame surged out and the temperature which abruptly soared immediately spread and obstructed the powerful aura of Liu Qing.

“Skyfire Three Mysterious Change: Green Lotus Change!”

The green-colored flame that spread all over his body emitted a ‘suo’ sound, and was withdrawn into his body as this low cry sounded within Xiao Yan’s heart. Following the entrance of the flame into his body, Xiao Yan’s aura also rose in correspondence. Although he was still unable to compare to Liu Qing, he was at least able to engage in a standoff with the latter and not appear too weak.

Xiao Yan had displayed the Skyfire Three Mysterious Flame before the fight had even begun. This was sufficient for one to see just how seriously he regarded Liu Qing. Of course, he also understood clearly in his heart that it was likely that he would be completely defeated in the first exchange if he did not use the ‘Skyfire Three Mysterious Change’ to raise his strength. After all, Liu Qing, who had taken half a step into the Dou Wang class was much stronger than an ordinary peak level Dou Ling.

Xiao Yan’s sensed the powerful galloping wave-like Dou Qi that flowed in a rumbling manner. He let out a long breath as his arms shook. His sleeves were just like metal pieces at this moment, emitting strange ‘Clang Clang’ sounds. The heavy ruler was tilted to the side as the green flame Dou Qi shrouded over it. An invisible, hot wind grilled the ground until it appeared dry.

Xiao Yan’s gaze slowly lifted. He eyed Lu Qing, who similarly had his Dou Qi wrapped around his body. Suddenly a low cry sounded in the arena. A faint rolling thunder was immediately emitted as a vague black shadow, dragging an enormous black ruler, carried a ferocious aura as it shot explosively toward the unmoving Liu Qing in front of a countless number of heated gazes.

Xiao Yan actually dared to take the lead in launching an attack in a fight of such great disparity. Just this boldness caused many people to nod quietly.

The dozens of meters of distance was covered in the blink of an eye. The two people instantly became close to each other within the arena. Their gazes were locked on each other, and their fighting intent, that could not

be suppressed, finally completely erupted in a boiling manner.

# Chapter 575: The Collision Between the Octane Blast and the Great Rift Coffin Splitting Claw

The two human figures appeared to be like meteors colliding as they crashed under the gazes of the countless number of people. Monstrous Dou Qi ripples from the fallout were shot all over the place.

“Chi!”

The heavy ruler in his hand cut through the air much like a black-colored lightning bolt. It carried a ferocious wind that caused the air to distort. It violently hacked down toward the unmoving Liu Qing who was like an imposing mountain. Under that powerful force, even the air under the ruler was completely expelled. A low sonic boom resounded, much like an underground explosion, oppressing and horrifying people.

The powerful suppressing wind caused Liu Qing's clothes to be glued to his skin. However, his face did not move just because of the heavy ruler that came hacking over ferociously. His eyes indifferently watched the increasingly heavy ruler. When it was merely half a foot from his head, Liu Qing finally took a random gentle step to the left.

The heavy ruler landed strongly, but it glanced past Liu Qing's arm narrowly as it fell. It did not have the slightest contribution. The instant that the attack missed, Liu Qing's left hand curled slightly. It immediately slapped to the left side in front of him.

The seemingly careless slap by the hand claw slapped extremely accurately on the body of the ruler the instant the heavy ruler fell. Immediately, a powerful force surged out and slammed the heavy ruler until it flew over a foot away, which coincidentally blocked Xiao Yan's intention of immediately changing his attack stance.

As the subsequent attack stance by the heavy ruler was cut off, the entire aura of Xiao Yan also delayed for the blink of an eye. Liu Qing completely grabbed the opportunity of this momentary pause, which was extremely



difficult to discover. His palm faced the ground and was curled into a slight arc which was like an extremely sharp beast claw. His arm trembled and the sharp claw carried a cold wind as it smashed heavily toward Xiao Yan's chest.

Xiao Yan also reacted in an instant as the heavy ruler was pushed aside. His left hand moved aside in a lighting-like manner. Powerful Dou Qi swiftly agglomerated over his fist as he clenched his five fingers. It was immediately thrown out violently and coincidentally collided together with that hand claw that was extending over explosively.

“Bang!”

A fist and a claw collided violently as a low, deep explosion suddenly appeared. A ripple force that caused the air to fluctuate continuously surged out before spreading in all directions.

“Thump thump...”

Xiao Yan's body shook intensely as his footsteps stepped back quickly. The extremely hard ground was filled with threads of crack lines each time one of his feet landed. This continued for quite a number of footsteps before a soft muffled snort softly sounded from Xiao Yan's throat. His right foot immediately stomped violently. The hard ground where it landed was instantly cracked, forming extremely small fragments.

Xiao Yan completely resolved the force that was transmitted from his hand before raising his head with a serious expression. He eyed Liu Qing who had merely took one step back. The other party's strength had steadily suppressed him in a head on collision.

Xiao Yan inhaled a deep breath of somewhat cool air. His gaze stared intently at the expressionless Liu Qing on the opposite side. In his heart he clearly knew that the longer he dragged out the fight with this kind of person, a person with powerful strength and awfully rich combat experience, the greater it was to his disadvantage. Hence, if he wanted to greatly increase his chances of victory, he must obtain the greatest offensive affect in the shortest amount of time.

Although Xiao Yan knew just what kind of fighting tactic was the most

advantageous in his heart, he still felt somewhat of a headache. Liu Qing was not an ordinary opponent. As long as he revealed even the slightest bit of an opening, it was likely that he would be faced with a storm of wild attacks. He was waiting for the best opportunity to strike, and so was his opponent. The thing that caused him to be most depressed was that the other party had sufficient time to leisurely and quietly wait for Xiao Yan's strength to be exhausted. However, he on the other hand, must obtain a certain offensive affect within a certain period of time. Xiao Yan had undoubtedly fallen into a disadvantage under the comparison of this mentality.

Xiao Yan laughed bitterly in his heart as he tossed those chaotic thoughts out of his mind. He tightly gripped the ruler's hilt as his gaze narrowed and eyed Liu Qing on the opposite side, who had similarly placed all his attention on him. A moment later, Xiao Yan's body suddenly leaned a little forward as his feet abruptly stepped on the ground. Immediately, he carried the extremely sharp sound of rushing wind. The pressure of the wind was great as a vague black shadow broke through the resistance of the air in a lightning-like manner and shot explosively toward Liu Qing

Xiao Yan's sudden ruler throwing assault caused surprise to flash across Liu Qing's eyes. However, his expression did not change much. Both his hands were abruptly curled into a claw-like shape and his footsteps advanced instead of retreating. As a step fell suddenly, his somewhat large hand-claw was wrapped by a pale-golden Dou Qi. He extended a little below the vague black shadow that had suddenly appeared between his hand claws!

Liu Qing's hand claws were wrapped by a pale-golden Dou Qi as they abruptly grasped with force that lightning-like black shadow that had abruptly paused in midair!

Although his hand-claw grabbed the heavy ruler, Liu Qing's body was shaken by this powerful force until he took a couple continuous steps back. Only then did he completely resolve all the force caused by the heavy ruler. However, by being able to just rely on the strength of a claw to

easily receive this heavy ruler of Xiao Yan, with enough force to shatter a mountain rock, it must be said that the strength of this fellow was really somewhat frightening.

Liu Qing's five fingers were curled into a strange arc and all his fingers were coincidentally in contact with the heavy ruler. The couple of relay points and the powerful Dou Qi on his body was the reason he was able to receive Xiao Yan's attack in such an easy manner.

As Liu Qing's hand-claw gripped the heavy ruler, the frightening weight that it contained immediately caused Liu Qing's expression to change a little. Although he had already expected that this ruler would be quite heavy, he was somewhat surprised to discover that this ruler was even heavier than his own Mountain Splitting Spear now that he had.

Surprise had just risen in his heart when astonishment quickly followed. This was because Liu Qing was somewhat shocked to realize that the Dou Qi that was originally flowing extremely smoothly within his body had suddenly become very sluggish after grabbing hold of the heavy ruler.

"This ruler is a little strange!" A thought flashed across his heart in a lightning-like manner. Liu Qing's hand-claws were basically relaxed at the same time. The heavy ruler powerlessly fell down after it was ceased being clamped onto.

A slight low rolling thunder sound suddenly rang out the instant that the heavy ruler rolled down. Liu Qing frown slightly. He instantly raised his head and a vague black shadow appeared within close vicinity in a strange ghost-like manner.

The vague black shadow borrowed the instant that Liu Qing was absentminded because of the Heavy Xuan Ruler and approached him in an instant. Those five fingers were abruptly tightly clenched as the Dou Qi in his body wildly circulated at this instant.

"Octane Blast!"

A low cry suddenly sounded as Xiao Yan's fist violently smashed directly at Liu Qing. Along the way, the wind on his fist soared a couple of times as unceasing low, deep explosive sounds, like that of firecrackers, resonated

by everyone ears.

An attack that was wilder and more vicious compared to any other caused Liu Qing's eyes to be slightly narrowed. He could sense that this incomparably ferocious attack by Xiao Yan was the powerful close range attack that had defeated Bai Cheng and Yao Sheng.

"It is still a little lacking if you want to rely on this to defeat me. However, I want to see whether this close range attack of yours can contend with my 'Great Rift Coffin Splitting Claw'."

A smile surfaced on his face as Liu Qing's hand-claw suddenly curled into a strange arc. Pale-golden Dou Qi lingered over the tip of his fingers. It expanded and shrank carrying a dense chill.

"'Great Rift Coffin Splitting Claw'!"

The claw faced the attack and the smile on Liu Qing's face was instantly withdrawn a moment later. His arm was extended as his hand claw shot out explosively. A shapeless wind formed a partially visible glowing arc in front of the claw. Its aura was extremely shocking and was not the least bit weaker than Xiao Yan's 'Octane Blast'.

Waves of exclamation sounded from the viewing gallery when they saw the two people in the arena who had actually chosen the most direct physical fight. Everyone was able to tell that the two people were quite accomplished in terms of close quarters combat. However, they were similarly clearly aware that this kind of close range physical combat was somewhat bloodier and more violent when compared to a fight between weapons. Of course, men did not have the slightest bit of discrimination toward this. This could be seen from the faces of the students that were suddenly filled with a red glow.

Wu Hao and the others also tensed up their bodies at this moment. In this kind of physical combat, any carelessness would basically result in one ending up losing with serious injuries. Although they had great understanding of Xiao Yan's close range combat, that Liu Qing was similarly an expert in this style.

"This close range attack of Xiao Yan is likely of a class that is not lower

than that of the 'Great Rift Coffin Splitting Claw'. However, I don't know whether it will be able to defeat it in a head on clash." Yao Hao eyed the wind that Xiao Yan carried somewhat seriously as he opened his mouth to speak.

Lin Xiuya's gaze did not blink as he eyed the arena. However, he slowly shook his head when he heard Yan Hao's words. "I'm afraid that it won't. I have seen Xiao Yan display this kind of Dou Technique a couple of times. Although its explosive force is extremely strong, the follow up eruption after that cannot be compared to that of the 'Great Rift Coffin Splitting Claw'. After all, Liu Qing has practiced this until he had truly reached the pinnacle level. If Liu Qing were to take down Xiao Yan's attack, the retaliation that follows might well result in Xiao Yan being in danger of losing."

Wu Hao, Han Yue, and the couple of others beside him nodded when they heard this. Their gaze immediately carried a worry as they eyed the collision that had instantly erupted within arena.

Under the countless number of gazes, the fist and claw, which respectively carried extremely strong destructive forces, finally collided with a bang!

"Bang!"

The clear sound of an explosive force suddenly sounded in the arena. A ripple that could be called a storm suddenly erupted from the point of contact between the two of them. The ground repeatedly emitted an overwhelming cracking sound wherever it passed. Numerous crack lines began swiftly spreading from under the bodies of the two of them in a web-like manner.

The destructive strength created by the forceful storm caused the sound of saliva being swallowed from the viewing gallery to appear one after another. This extremely pure physical strength actually had such a frightening destructive force.

A fist and a claw appeared to have been adhered together within the arena as an invisible force repeatedly spread out from the feet of the two

people. After which, everyone saw the extremely firm ground swiftly crack apart, turning into extremely tiny fragments before the fragments were finally shaken into powder at the end!

Xiao Yan's eyes stared firmly at the expressionless Liu Qing. His arm trembled slightly at this instant. The resultant force from the head on collision between the two had nearly caused his arm to descend into a numb state. His heart sank a little. This time around, the 'Octane Blast' which had never failed in the past did not achieve much impact. Xiao Yan could sense that when the hidden force of the 'Octane Blast' entered Liu Qing's body, it was shattered by an even more ferocious force.

The force that was created from the Octane Blast was being swiftly reduced. On the other hand, the large hand claw that was tightly grabbing his hand did not show the slightest trace of relaxing.

"The eruption force is fair but the follow up is inadequate!" At a certain moment, the rock statue like Liu Qing suddenly opened his mouth slowly and smiled toward Xiao Yan. He spoke softly, "I'm afraid that it is over!"

Liu Qing's voice had just fell when his hand claw abruptly pressed down in a strange manner. Immediately, it broke past the hindrance of Xiao Yan's arm and shot toward the latter's chest. The claw's wind was incomparably sharp. Xiao Yan's defeat was basically certain should he be struck by it!

However, Xiao Yan's left hand that had been left dangling was already prepared as it swiftly formed some seals. He smiled slightly as a hot green-colored flame surged out from his body. As the flame surfaced, a firm flame armor, that could not be destroyed, suddenly covered Xiao Yan's body.

"That may not be the case!"

# Chapter 576: Explode

As Xiao Yan's laughter sounded, the green-colored flame on his body had instantly wrapped firmly around him until he had disappeared underneath the armor within the blink of an eye.

Having been prepared, the agglomeration of Xiao Yan's flame armor was so fast that it was frightening. By the time Liu Qing's sharp hand claw suddenly came in close contact with Xiao Yan's body, the flame armor had already completely taken shape.

Liu Qing's eyes shrank slightly at the flame armor that had suddenly appeared. Being in such close contact, the extremely hot temperature of the flame armor caused his body to faintly transmit a searing pain. His heart was immediately shocked. This fellow's green flame was indeed a little strange.

"I just want to see whether this armor of yours can truly defend against all attacks?" The attack was imminent and it was too late for him to withdraw it. Hence, a coldness surged within Liu Qing's eyes as his attack charged forward instead of pulling back. The Dou Qi within his body surged wildly as a pale-golden Dou Qi shot out an eye-piercing glow, isolating the hot temperature.

Due to the stimulation of the Dou Qi in his body, Liu Qing's claw hand had instantly become sharper. Immediately, the sharp hand-claw collided heavily with the flame armor.

The two collided and the 'Clang Clang' sound of metal colliding immediately sounded within the arena.

As the sound fell, one could see that the surface of that extremely firm armor had formed quite a deep dent. Xiao Yan, who was hidden under the flame armor, also took a step back after receiving such a heavy blow. Although the flame armor isolated a large portion of the force, there was still some hidden force that seeped through the armor and shook his body until it swayed.

"Clang! Clang!"

Liu Qing instantly followed up in a ghost-like manner the moment Xiao Yan stepped back. The golden glow shined brightly on his claw-hands. Numerous afterimages were left behind as they descended and those golden glowing sharp claw-hands landed unceasingly on the flame armor. Immediately, the entire arena emitted a 'Clang Clang' sound that caused one to be struck with fear.

Following this wild attack by Liu Qing, there was an increasing number of dents appearing on that incomparably firm flame armor. By the end of Liu Qing's series of attacks, it was basically full of holes. Xiao Yan was also shaken by that extremely powerful force until he withdrew by more than ten steps. Moreover, this was the result after having the flame armor block most of the force. It was difficult to imagine just what state Xiao Yan would be in if he did not secretly prepare this tactic before hand. Should that sharp hand-claw, which could shatter gold and cut rocks, firmly strike his body, he would at the very least end up being seriously injured and losing his fighting ability...

Countless numbers of people were sweating profusely on the viewing gallery as they eyed the numerous afterimages dancing within the arena as Liu Qing performed his wild attack. Their hearts quietly whispered that he was indeed worthy of the name Tyrant Spear Liu Qing. This attack was indeed incomparably tyrannical, causing one to be struck with terror. Everyone was stunned by this extremely sharp attack of Liu Qing while at the same time, they could not help but feel amazement toward Xiao Yan in the arena. Xiao Yan may have descended into a disadvantage under this wild and violent attack of Liu Qing, but he was not defeated yet. This ability caused everyone to be filled with admiration as they exclaimed, "No wonder he is qualified to be viewed so seriously by Liu Qing and Lin Xiuya. This new student dark horse does indeed have some abilities."

During that short distance of over a dozen steps, the numerous afterimages that Liu Qing showed basically had the force of a hundred strikes which all mercilessly smashed the flame armor. Faced with such a heavy attack, that extremely firm flame armor was on the verge of cracking apart. Even its color had become much paler...



On the tall platform, Liu Fei's face was filled with wild joy as she grabbed Yao Sheng's hand by her side. Her voice had become somewhat sharp in excitement, "That fellow is about to be defeated!"

Beside her, Yao Sheng's gaze stared intently at the arena before frowning slightly. His strength far surpassed Liu Fei's, so his eyes were naturally a little sharper. Although Xiao Yan was shaken until he continuously stepped back within the arena, Yao Sheng, who had personally fought with him, clearly knew just what kind of frightening defensive strength that damn flame armor had.

"That fellow Xiao Yan has an extremely outstanding combat awareness. He was actually able to agglomerate his flame armor in that instant. I think that he should have already prepared it beforehand." Yan Hao smacked his lips and continued in amazement, "However, it is fortunate that this fellow was hiding a card. Otherwise, this frightening attack of Liu Qing, that had erupted instantaneously, would have likely been sufficient to cause Xiao Yan serious injury had he not used the defense of the flame armor."

"However, the flame armor appears to be also unable to block all of Liu Qing's attack. From the looks of it, that armor is also about to burst apart..." Han Yue knit her brows slightly. Anyone could tell that it was likely that the flame armor on Xiao Yan's body could not be maintained for much longer.

Lin Xiuya's eyes stared intently at the arena. A moment later, he finally slowly opened his mouth, "It is likely that this attacking momentum of Liu Qing won't cause much harm to Xiao Yan. Although it appears that Xiao Yan is beaten until he is unable to retaliate now, his withdrawing footsteps are in sequence, and he does not have the slightest panic. I think... huh?" Surprise suddenly flashed passed Liu Xiuya's eyes before his words sounded. He suddenly sensed the sudden fluctuation of the natural energy within the arena.

"What is it?" That slight fluctuation was extremely weak and appeared to be hidden by something. Therefore, even Yan Hao and the others did not discover it. This caused them to open their mouths and question

uncertainly.

Lin Xiuya narrowed his eyes. An instant later, he finally sensed something and his gaze was suddenly thrown toward Xiao Yan who was repeatedly stepping back under Liu Qing's wild and violent attack. His mouth moved slightly and he immediately muttered with surprised eyes, "Xiao Yan is perhaps... about to retaliate."

"Retaliate?" Yan Hao and the others were slightly startled when they heard this. They immediately knit their brows and watched Xiao Yan who was basically collapsing a thousand miles under Liu Qing's attack. They really could not see the slightest trace of him retaliating. In their eyes, should this attack of Liu Qing continue for a while longer, it was likely that victory would be decided at the moment the flame armor on Xiao Yan's body completely broke apart.

Lin Xiuya laughed softly but did not point anything out. He merely smiled faintly and said, "It is really unexpected that Xiao Yan is actually this cunning. He is indeed a troublesome opponent to deal with. Even though he is facing Liu Qing, he has not shown the slightest sign of chaos."

Yan Hao and the others eyed each other and immediately shook their heads helplessly. They were about to inquire again when an uproar suddenly sounded from the stadium. Immediately, they hurriedly turned their gazes to the arena only to involuntarily feel shock.

Under Liu Qing's storm-like wild and violent attack the incomparably tough green flame armor finally reached its end. The moment Liu Qing's sharp claw violently smashed onto a dent, the entire armor instantly shook intensely. Immediately, crack lines swiftly covered the armor under the pitiful gazes all over the stadium. Finally, a clear cracking sound appeared. The armor that had received nearly a hundred attacks from Liu Qing finally cracked apart and turned into nothingness...

As the armor disappeared, Xiao Yan, hidden within it, also once again appeared in everyone's sight.

At this moment, not only were Xiao Yan's clothes somewhat shattered

by the hidden force that had penetrated through the armor but his expression was also pale. A thread of blood even flowed down the corner of his mouth. Clearly, even though he had the protection of the flame armor, he was truly a little injured when faced with that nearly bull-like wild and violent attack!

Liu Qing's expression was as deep as water. The shattering of the last layer of Xiao Yan's defense merely caused his brows to be quietly lifted. The pale-golden Dou Qi once again covered his hand-claw, and the sharp claw's wind shot toward Xiao Yan's chest!

With a blood trace remaining on the corner of his mouth, Xiao Yan eyed Liu Qing, who did not rest even a little as the latter once again attacked fiercely. A cold smile that was difficult to notice was lifted in his dark-black eyes. His body did not move as his right hand slowly lifted before it directly faced Liu Qing. From the looks of his manner, it was as though he was about to receive the latter's attack head on.

This actions of Xiao Yan immediately caused private conversations to appear in the viewing gallery. After the exchange earlier, everyone knew that Xiao Yan was unable to beat Liu Qing in a head on clash. This current action of Xiao Yan could really be only judged as 'seeking death' in the eyes of everyone.

Regardless of what they thought of, however, Xiao Yan still stubbornly adopted such a maneuver in the arena. A coldness was contained in his eyes as he watched Liu Qing who had arrived in an instant.

Even Liu Qing was somewhat surprised at the actions of Xiao Yan. However, on top of feeling surprise, his heart had unknowingly tightened greatly. It was said that abnormalities were monsters. Xiao Yan was not a fool, it was impossible for him to adopt a method like using an egg to collide with a rock.

As the doubt in Liu Qing's heart was rotating swiftly, a pale-green-purple color suddenly flashed in his eyes. Immediately, the hairs all over his body stood up. A kind of intense sense of danger surfaced in his heart.

An instant later, the green-purple color once again appeared. This time

around, Liu Qing finally discovered the source where it was transmitted from. His eyes immediately shrunk in an abrupt manner... this was because that place was within the dark-black sleeves of Xiao Yan who was facing him...

The wild and violent attack was basically forcefully stopped by Liu Qing in mid-air. He ignored the tightness in his chest caused by the force. Under the numerous stunned gazes from the surrounding viewing gallery, Liu Qing's expression changed suddenly. His two feet also stomped on the ground, and his body swiftly retreated!

"It's too late!"

Xiao Yan involuntarily parted his mouth and smiled as he watched Liu Qing who appeared to have discovered his intentions. His clean white teeth still had a little remnant of blood. He flicked his finger and a faint voice emitted, "Go!"

As the voice sounded, a green-purple glow immediately flashed out from Xiao Yan's sleeves. Following the appearance of this cluster of green-purple glow, the temperature of the arena suddenly rose! At this moment, everyone finally understood just why Liu Qing had swiftly withdrawn at the last moment. Xiao Yan had actually dug a pit long ago... waiting for Liu Qing to charge over.

The green-purple glow's flashing speed was so fast that it was frightening. However, it still did not escape the attention of the Elders on the judges' seats. As they sensed the frightening destructive strength contained within it, even the expression of the First Elder Su Qian involuntarily changed a little.

The green-purple glow flashed a couple of times before it appeared in front of Liu Qing as his eyes shrunk swiftly...

"Explode!"

The simple sound of a word was slowly emitted from Xiao Yan's mouth. An explosion that could collapse mountains and break the land suddenly appeared.

# Chapter 577: One Move

The collapsing-mountain and cracking-land explosion reverberated like rolling thunder in the spacious arena under a countless number of shocked gazes.

A majestic destructive wind was much like a storm, carrying a high temperature as it swept in all directions from the spot in the arena where the flame lotus had exploded! The ground within the arena cracked wherever the storm passed. A crack line that was as thick as an arm began to swiftly spread over the entire arena like a spider web. That seemingly tough fighting arena had completely turned into a mess in an extremely short amount of time.

Numerous stunned gazes stared foolishly at the arena that was completely destroyed from the viewing gallery. Their minds were somewhat unable to come to terms with it. They did not expect that the cluster of green-purple light, which had not been clearly seen, would actually be able to create such a frightening destructive strength!

It was a long time later before everyone gradually recovered from their dull state. All the gazes were abruptly turned to the pale-faced black-robed young man whose chest was rising and falling repeatedly. Without exception, the eyes of these people were filled with surprise and shock. Clearly, this lightning-like frightening attack that Xiao Yan had displayed really caused them to be in shock.

From the tall platform, Liu Fei's pretty face was pale as she watched the arena below where dust scattered all over the place. Her hand covered her mouth and terror flashed across her eyes. The eruption of this sudden, frightening retaliation by Xiao Yan had basically beaten her down from her prideful heaven into hell. She had never thought that Xiao Yan, whom she had always held a grudge against, would actually be in possession of such a trump card.

Yao Sheng's mouth also gradually widened beside Liu Fei. It was a long while later before shock and rejoice flashed across his eyes. It was

fortunate that this fellow did not display this move in the fight yesterday. Yao Sheng acknowledged that even if he were to use his entire strength, it was likely that he would at the very least be seriously injured under this move that possessed such terrifying destructive strength.

“Don’t worry, Fei Er. Chief’s strength far exceeds Xiao Yan. Even though the latter has displayed this kind of extremely powerful Dou Technique, Chief has similarly not used his full strength.” Yao Sheng comforted Liu Fei by his side who had been shocked to the point where her pretty face had become pale.

Liu Fei’s expression only became slightly better after hearing Yao Sheng’s comforting words. However, she was still a little afraid and uneasy.

Those pretty eyes slowly turned from the dust-filled arena to the black-robed, young man with a cold and stern face. For some unknown reason, those pair of eyes had a missing hatred and an additional uneasiness along with a little fear. Her greatest support in the Inner Academy was Liu Qing. However, the current Xiao Yan had displayed a frightening strength that was sufficient to contend with Liu Qing. Hence, the effect of this support was reduced to its lowest. Having lost this great support, what right did she have to display any kind of disdain in front of Xiao Yan?

“I have also heard that Xiao Yan is in possession of a fire lotus Dou Technique that possesses an extremely great strength. However, according to that rumor, it did not appear to have such a great destructive force, right?” Yan Hao muttered as he watched the arena that had basically been laid to waste.

“Back then, Xiao Yan merely possessed the strength of a Da Dou Shi. Now that he has advanced to the Dou Ling class, the strength of his Dou Technique would naturally become stronger along with him.” Lin Xiu Ya smiled. However, his eyes also faintly held a little seriousness. If he could not defend in time, that fire lotus attack earlier would likely result in him being seriously injured even with his strength. It was really unexpected that... Xiao Yan was really in possession of such a powerful trump card.

“How is Liu Qing? Don’t tell me?” Han Yue’s pupils swept over the arena. However, she was unable to see even half a human figure under the thick dust.

Lin Xiu Ya narrowed his eyes. A long while later, he shook his head and said softly, “Although even I must admit that this fire lotus Dou Technique of Xiao Yan is frightening, it is likely going to be quite difficult to rely on just this to completely defeat Liu Qing... Due to his Dou Qi affinity, this fellow’s defense is even stronger than mine.”

Yan Hao and a few others nodded slightly upon hearing this. Their gazes once again turned to the dust-filled arena.

As their gazes once again turned to the arena, that dust which had spread all over the place finally became fainter. A moment later, a wind suddenly blew past, and immediately the dust was swept away. The moment the dust was completely expelled, a person was standing straight in a corner of the arena that had been laid to waste. His tall body that emitted a spear-like sharp aura slowly appeared in front of everyone’s eyes.

Their gazes watched that tyrant figure which was standing as straight as a spear in the mess. The clothes of this human figure, which were originally filled with a powerful aura had been completely shattered, and his naked body still had quite a number of charred black traces. His entire person appeared to be completely changed from the expert demeanor he displayed earlier. However, this miserable figure did not prevent the viewing gallery to emit a low cheer.

Xiao Yan’s gaze coldly stared at the human figure amid the mess some distance away. A moment later, Xiao Yan’s eyes solidified and he finally discovered that the dark-black, heavy spear that Liu Qing had been carrying on his back was currently held in Liu Qing’s hand. After Liu Qing held the long spear in his hand, the demeanor of his entire body was just like a long lance, which revealed a cold glow. His aura was much stronger and sharper compared to what it was earlier.

“No wonder he is able to endure the explosion of the ‘Angry Buddha

Lotus Flame'. He actually took out his ultimate hidden trump card." Xiao Yan's heart quietly relaxed. His eyes were raised and coincidentally made contact with Liu Qing's eyes. Those four pupils intertwined. Xiao Yan was able to discover the dignity and seriousness that surfaced in the latter. After that earlier attack, this extremely proud man had finally completely treated Xiao Yan as an equal opponent.

The heavy spear in Liu Qing's hand was slowly pointed toward Xiao Yan under the gaze of everyone. A low and deep voice reverberated in the arena, "You have the qualification to get me to use the 'Mountain Splitting Spear'!"

This words of Liu Qing were undoubtedly an acknowledgement of Xiao Yan's strength. After that frightening attack that Xiao Yan had displayed earlier, there was not a single person in the arena who doubted Xiao Yan had such a qualification. Hence, the entire arena was actually quiet in a moment. All the gazes were paused on the two people who were facing each other from a distance within the arena.

Xiao Yan's fist slowly tightened. A clear explosive sound appeared from his joints. The sharp blade like aura of Liu Qing at this moment was indeed pressuring. One could tell that the current him had truly unleashed his strength to his limit. In the subsequent battle, Liu Qing's attacks would likely be even wilder and more violent compared to what they were earlier.

"Liu Qing is about to use the 'Mountain Splitting Spear'..." On the tall platform, Lin Xiu Ya sighed softly as he stared at the dark-black, heavy spear in Liu Qing's hands. He said, "Being able to force Liu Qing to this extent, Xiao Yan could be considered to have received a glorious loss even if he is defeated."

Yan Hao nodded slightly by the side. With the exception of Lin Xiu Ya and that 'Brute Force Queen' Zi Yan, it was likely that there was no one else with the qualification to force Liu Qing to use the 'Mountain Splitting Spear'. This point was something that Yan Hao had no choice but to admit even with the pride in his bones. Even he did not possess such a qualification.



“However, Xiao Yan has attached a great importance to the top ten. I think that it is likely that he will not give it up easily.” Han Yue knit her eyebrows and softly replied.

Lin Xiu Ya laughed faintly as he spoke, “Unless Xiao Yan has a stronger hidden trump card other than that lotus flame Dou Technique, otherwise... it would likely be difficult to reach the top ten list.” His voice had a somewhat regretful taste to it. Now that he had witnessed Xiao Yan’s impressive strength, his heart also gained fighting intent. He wanted to challenge him. However, if Xiao Yan were to be defeated in Liu Qing’s hand, it was likely that this opportunity would disappear.

Lin Xiu Ya’s eyes flickered as his gaze was thrown to the black-robed, young man with cold eyes in the arena. He really hoped that this fellow who frequently acted beyond the expectations of others to once again reveal a miracle...

“One move!”

The dark-black Mountain Splitting Spear within Liu Qing’s hand was heavily smashed into some rock fragments in the arena as he suddenly opened his mouth and spoke to Xiao Yan.

Xiao Yan frowned slightly. His gaze looked at Liu Qing on the opposite side whose aura had suddenly become sharp.

“The final move that will determine the victor.” Liu Qing’s face, which had been as deep as water, suddenly revealed a somewhat stiff smile. The Mountain Splitting Spear drew past the air. A golden-colored Dou Qi left behind a faint golden-colored trace in the empty air.

“This is the trump card that I saved to deal with Lin Xiu Ya. However, from the looks of the situation now, I will have to display it on you first.”

Upon hearing these words, everyone in the viewing gallery immediately extended their necks. Their gazes repeatedly moved back and forth between the two of them.

Xiao Yan stared at the extremely confident smile on Liu Qing’s face. He knew that the subsequent attack of the other party would really decide the

victor of this match as he had said... His lips were tightened and a long while later, Xiao Yan inhaled a deep breath of the somewhat hot air before him in front of the public's eyes. He cupped his hands slowly. "Xiao Yan will seek your advice!"

The top ten was a target that Xiao Yan would never give up on. He would use all his strength to defeat the person blocking him regardless of who that person was.

"Good, you have guts!" The glow in Liu Qing's eyes suddenly soared as he replied in a deep voice. At the same time, he moved both his legs. His hands tightly held the Mountain Splitting Spear. Leaning his body slightly forward, he pointed the cold glowing spear tip toward the distant Xiao Yan!

As Liu Qing displayed this stance, the skin of the distant Xiao Yan immediately felt a chill. He could sense that Liu Qing had already locked his attack onto him.

An unusual pressuring feeling wrapped around Xiao Yan. However, a boiling fighting intent that was just like boiling water began seething within Xiao Yan's chest. His body stuck out suddenly as a clear laughter swept across the earlier pressure, "Senior Liu Qing, you can just come at me with all you got. I, Xiao Yan, will definitely get a top ten spot today!"

His thunder-like laughter reverberated throughout the entire arena. That pride which soared to the sky was something that gave even those viewing from the viewing gallery to feel a blood boiling feeling.

As his laughter fell, Xiao Yan slowly took a step forward. His hand abruptly extended toward a spot that had been turned to a complete mess. A suction force surged and the dark-black Heavy Xuan Ruler shot back to him. Finally, Xiao Yan's palm was extended slightly and firmly grabbed it.

"Senior Liu Qing, let us take a look and see just who will lose and be eliminated!"

The heavy ruler suddenly pointed toward Liu Qing whose aura was as sharp as a blade. After Xiao Yan's clear voice sounded, the natural energy between the Heavens and Earth immediately became extremely wild and

violent. At this moment, even the expressions of the Elders in the judges' seats instantly underwent a drastic change!

# Chapter 578: The Collision Between the Great Splitting Rock and the Flame Splitting Tsunami!

An unusual wild and violent energy fluctuation suddenly rippled over the arena as the clear voice reverberated. Those people who were the first to sense this ripple were the Elders sitting in the judges' seats. Immediately, their expressions underwent a sudden change. Their gazes all suddenly turned at almost the same time. Finally, they stopped on the black-robed young man who was proudly standing in the arena while carrying the heavy ruler in his hand. The source of that wild and violent ripple was from this place.

The Elders on the viewing gallery faced each other. Immediately their throats rolled slightly. This energy ripple was at least a couple of times stronger compared to the fire lotus that had an extremely terrifying destructive strength earlier.

"This fellow... just how many trump cards does he have?" At this moment, those Elders could not help but feel a troubled feeling despite their strength. Although Xiao Yan's current strength was merely that of a Dou Ling, other than a few of the Elders in the stadium, each of them questioned themselves and realized that it was likely that not one of them who would not feel a headache when faced with Xiao Yan's never ending powerful Dou Techniques.

Following the increasingly wild and violent energy ripple in the arena, threads of substance-like hot pale-red energy suddenly seeped out from the empty space. Finally, it shrouded Xiao Yan's body and rotated wildly. Following the rotation of this pale-red energy, a wild wind suddenly surfaced and immediately swept in all directions. The ferocity of that wild wind even caused some of the large rocks on the ground to roll a couple of times.

At this moment, nearly everyone in the stadium had noticed the strange

change of Xiao Yan. Immediately, numerous stunned gazes were shot over. Some of the students with ordinary eyesight did not notice anything at the beginning. However, those people with outstanding ability within the Inner Academy were initially stunned when they saw the cocoon-like fiery-red energy lingering around Xiao Yan's body. Their faces immediately changed drastically. Following numerous 'shua shua' sounds appearing one after another, nearly everyone sat up straight on their seats. Their faces were stricken with shock.

"Cluck!" Yan Hao's eyes were wide like a dead fish as he stared unblinkingly at that black-robed, young man who was wrapped within a wild and violent red-colored energy. His throat rolled a little. Only a moment later, a hoarse voice that contained a chilly air was emitted, "He... he this is... what Dou Technique?"

It was possible for anyone to be able to tell that Xiao Yan was clearly displaying an even more frightening Dou Technique at this moment than the earlier flame lotus based on the unusual situation!

To the side, the clear and indifferent smile that hung on Lin Xiu Ya's face disappeared. An extremely solemn and shocked face was staring intently at the arena. That frightening energy ripple... was something that caused even him to feel extremely cold!

"A Dou Technique that is able to cause the fluctuation of natural energy... that would at least require... Di class in order to be possible." Lin Xiu Ya inhaled a deep breath of air. He did his best to suppress his galloping heart as his voice spoke with some difficulty.

Di class?

The moment the two simple words left his mouth, even Han Yue's delicate hand could not help but cover her red lips. Her pretty face was covered with shock and disbelief. A High Xuan and Di class may merely have a one level distance, but the gap was just like that of the Heavens and the Earth. Most Xuan class Dou Techniques relied on the personal strength of the user to unleash its strength. However, a Di class Dou Technique was already able to rely on the natural energy to achieve an

extermination-like destructive strength. One was a person and the other was the Heavens and Earth. There was basically no comparison between the two.

Unceremoniously put, a Xuan class Dou Skill may be quite rare. Who among those could enter into the strong ranking and not possess one or two kinds of Xuan class Dou Techniques? On the other hand, Di class... there was really no one who had displayed one!

A Dou Technique of this class was not only rare but it was also extremely difficult to practice. Back then, Xiao Yan had also suffered greatly when practicing the 'Flame Splitting Tsunami' despite having Yao Lao teaching him by the side in order to barely reach a low level mastery. When he practiced the 'Three Thousand Lightning Movement' some time earlier, he was also required to take the risk of undergoing the refining of his body with the wind-lightning strength. If Xiao Yan had not have the 'Green Lotus Core Flame' protecting his body, forget about reaching a low level mastery of the 'Three Thousand Lightning Movement', he would not be able to enter even the most initial entry level. From this, it was sufficient for one to see the frightening gap between that of the Xuan class Dou Techniques and the Di class Dou Techniques which could not be remedied.

"Yao Sheng, you... what is wrong with all of you?" On the opposite side of the tall platform, Liu Fei was shocked by Yao Sheng and the others around her who had suddenly stood up. Her pretty eyes turned toward the arena. However, with her strength, she was unable to sense just how frightening the substance-like wild and violent flame lingering around Xiao Yan's body was.

"Xiao Yan... Xiao Yan appears to... be using a kind of... Di class Dou Technique." Yao Sheng suddenly sensed that his throat had become extremely dry. Even his voice had become extremely unfamiliar.

The moment the four words 'Di class Dou Technique' entered her ear, Liu Fei's slightly opened small mouth immediately stiffened along with the expression on her face. It was a long while later before she quiveringly threw her gaze toward the cold expression of the black-robed, young man.

Although her strength could not be compared with Yao Sheng and the others, she was extremely clear of just how terrifying a Di class Dou Technique was.

“Cousin... cousin will win right?” Liu Fei straightened her body and smiled as she asked a question. However, that smile was extremely forceful. Even she herself felt that it was extremely fake.

Yao Sheng, who always expressed great confidence in Liu Qing, had become quiet at this moment. A Di class Dou Technique. The meaning that these four words contained was just like a heavy rock that pressed on his heart, causing even his breathing to appear a little rough.

Liu Fei’s pretty face immediately became pale as she sensed Yao Sheng’s silence. She bit her lips and those eyes that were staring at the black-robed young man in the arena actually showed... a little regret. Back then, when she had come into conflict with Xiao Yan, the latter was but a person who had just entered the Dou Ling class and a new student who did not even have the qualification to enter the ‘Strong Ranking’. However, this new student who caused her to feel great disdain and hatred had currently stepped over many strong people and ascended to the ‘Strong Ranking’. Earlier he had even forced her extremely proud elder cousin to use his trump card, the Mountain Splitting Spear. After... the Di class Dou Technique he was displaying had finally completely trampled over all of Liu Fei’s support until it was worthless!

Faced with this person who could basically defeat the undefeatable legend in her heart anytime, even with Liu Fei’s arrogance, she could not help but feel some regret. She regretted why she had to come into conflict with this frightening fellow...

Of course, with things having developed until this stage, regret was useless. The Dou Technique in the arena was like a strung arrow on a bow. There was already not the slightest room to turn things around.

Xiao Yan did not know that he had aroused the galloping hearts of countless number of people merely because he had started to display the Dou Technique. At this moment, his gaze was still staring in an

unblinking manner at the distant Liu Qing, who was pointing the Mountain Splitting Spear toward him.

The moment the fiery hot, wild, violent energy appeared over Xiao Yan's body, Liu Qing's eyes instantly shrank to the size of pinholes. With his experience, he was naturally able to identify just what that kind of energy this represented... however, with the fight having reached this point, he could only swing his spear and attack even if the strength of the opposing Xiao Yan suddenly surged to that of the Dou Wang class. His character did not allow him to cower. This was especially when his opponent was truly new student!

A mottled air that was suppressed in his chest was let out with a long breath. A powerful pale-golden glow slowly surged out from Liu Qing's body. That bright eye-piercingly intense light was like a dazzling sun, causing everyone to be afraid to look at it directly. Moreover, an extremely sharp spear tip and wind soared out from within that glow.

Liu Qing still used his action to demonstrate his stance even when faced with the frightening Dou Technique of Xiao Yan that had suddenly used. Moreover, he also clearly understood that even if Xiao Yan truly controlled the Di class Dou Technique, he would definitely be unable to display its full strength. Moreover, this final trump card of his was something he had practiced for many years and by coordinating with a homologous Dou Qi when unleashed, Liu Qing believed that its strength would definitely be able to reach the true peak of the Xuan class Dou Techniques. He did not feel the slightest fear even if it were to collide with a Di class Dou Technique. Instead it had evoked a little blood thirstiness in his body. Today, he wanted to let everyone know that there was still a chance for a Xuan class Dou Technique to contend against a Di class Dou Technique!

A glow flashed violently across his eyes. As the true great battle approached, Liu Qing sensed the blood of his entire body had begun to boil at this moment. This kind of feeling was one he had not felt for a long time. It something that had only appeared when he was fighting with Lin Xiu Ya back then.

“Ha ha, Xiao Yan, come. Let me see just who will be victorious today!”



A hearty loud laugh carrying an incomparable domineering aura filled the entire arena, pushing the atmosphere in the arena until it reached a high tide. Everyone on the tall platform was so agitated that their expressions were flush red. Some of those who had little self control could not resist standing up and shouting loudly with all their strength toward the arena.

“Senior Liu Qing, Xiao Yan definitely wants the top ten spot!”

The black-robed, young man suddenly raised his head. He did not feel the slightest fear under this domineering aura of Liu Qing. His body was as straight as a spear and appeared extremely imposing. In an instant, it caused a strange color to surface in the eyes of quite a number of pretty female seniors in the viewing gallery.

“Alright. In that case, I want to see if your strength has such qualification!” The bright golden light grew increasingly stronger. In the end, it wrapped Liu Qing’s entire body within it. Only that thunder-like laughter was emitted in a vast and mighty manner.

Xiao Yan eyed the bright pale-golden glow that had basically enveloped half of the arena. The heavy ruler in his hand was slowly extended. Immediately, the wild and violent fiery red energy that lingered around his body rotated even more forcefully. Even the space around his body had become slightly distorted.

Waves of nearly substance-like wild, violent red-colored energy suddenly and abruptly poured unceasingly into the Heavy Xuan Ruler under a soft cry by Xiao Yan...

As such frightening energy was poured into it, one could see a strange dark redness surfacing on the originally dark-black heavy ruler. From the looks of it, that black ruler was just like it had a dark-red flame lingering over it...

“Boom!”

A tremor that moved the ground and shook the mountains suddenly sounded. Everyone’s gazes hurriedly looked over. That cluster of bright golden glow in the distance had slowly gathered into a body. As its feet

landed on a huge rock, the huge rock immediately cracked into a pile of powder under the energy that was released.

“Xiao Yan, if you are able to receive this attack of mine, I will hand the third spot on the ‘Strong Ranking’ over to you with both hands!” A spear image that was wrapped in golden light was extended out and pointed toward Xiao Yan from a distance. Liu Qing’s proud voice that was filled with confidence was emitted.

“If you are able to receive this attack of mine, I, Xiao Yan will automatically give up on the top ten!” The Heavy Xuan Ruler that basically completely transformed into a dark-red color was slowly pointed toward Liu Qing. A ripple surfaced over the space where the heavy ruler moved through. Xiao Yan’s face became flush red as he unleashed a loud untamed laugh.

“Ha ha, good, good, good!”

As the wild laughter sounded, the bright golden glow suddenly become restrained. An instant later, the originally extremely eye-piercing golden glow shrank back into the Mountain Splitting Spear in a lightning-like manner. Following the pouring in of such an enormous amount of energy, a liquid-like golden-colored energy flowed like a spirit over the tip of the Mountain Splitting Spear.

“Let the victory be decided in one move!”

Liu Qing’s hand shook abruptly. The long spear was tilted toward the sky. Immediately, the heavy spear carried a humming rushing wind sound as it was abruptly smashed down. As the heavy spear smashed down, an extremely terrifying force followed the ground and seeped out. Immediately, the debris of the enormous rocks around him turned into powder under the numerous shocked gazes around him.

“Great Splitting Rock!”

A thunder-like explosive cry suddenly sounded. The golden glow suddenly erupted in a flood-like torrent over the tip of the Mountain Splitting Spear.

The bright golden glow that came from all directions carried an incomparably sharp ear-piercing explosive sound as it drew through the air in a lightning-like manner, heading toward Xiao Yan in the distance. Wherever the golden glow passed, the enormous rocks on the entire arena cracked apart abruptly.

A full force strike by Liu Qing was actually this frightening!

The faces of the entire stadium changed when faced with such a majestic attack! Even the Elders on the judges' seats revealed solemn expressions. This kind of Dou Technique was basically on the edge of the Di class. This Liu Qing was indeed frightening.

Xiao Yan's dark-black eyes were basically covered by the golden-colored glow from all directions. As the key target, Xiao Yan was able to sense just what kind of frighteningly sharp attack the golden glow contained!

However, Xiao Yan similarly had absolute confidence that any attack would disappear under the Heavy Xuan Ruler!

A breath of slightly hot air was deeply absorbed into Xiao Yan's lungs. His foot slowly stepped forward under the gaze of everyone. The Heavy Xuan Ruler in his hand was being lifted high over his head. Green veins were revealed over his arm, much like numerous wiggling little snakes!

The audience all over the stadium halted their breath at this moment as they eyed Xiao Yan's heavy ruler being raised up high. Their expressions were so anxious that they were completely flushed red!

Under the firm focus of a countless number of gazes, Xiao Yan's hand trembled the next instant before the Heavy Xuan Ruler in it fell suddenly!

"Flame Splitting Tsunami!"

"Break it!"

Two wild cries suddenly sounded. Immediately, a dark-red ruler glow that was dozens of feet large erupted out explosively from the heavy ruler with an irresistible, powerful, frightening momentum!

The moment the ruler glow shot out, it was as though the air was like

the water in a lake that a person had thrown a huge rock in. It rippled with a bang. A half a meter wide crack line followed the ruler glow that had been shot out. It swiftly spread over the originally wrecked arena under the many shocked gazes.

# Chapter 579: A Breath Remains

The enormous dark-red glow rushed through the air in a lightning-like manner. A slight energy seeped out wherever it passed, causing the huge rocks on the ground to be shattered into powder. Moreover, the nearly half a meter wide crack line swiftly expanding on the ground completely destroyed this arena.

The golden-colored bright intense light occupied half of the sky in the arena. The dark-red glow was like a crescent as it shot out. The two contained an extremely sharp glow and the space along the way vibrated. Crack lines spread out, and a frightening destructive force caused the faces of everyone in the viewing platform to fill with shock and fear. If they were in that position, it was likely that the little energy that seeped out would be sufficient to shock them to death. A fight of this level was a little too terrifying.

The two extremely frightening attacks were about to collide with a bang. The countless number of eyes watching reflected the golden and dark-red glow as the two attacks came together like meteorites!

The hearts of everyone were involuntarily lifted the moment when the two were very close. Just who would be victorious in this kind of frightening exchange?

Under the anticipation and the uncertainty in everyone's hearts, the dark-red and golden glow violently collided together in the air in the next moment... However, just as everyone covered their ears and awaited the shockingly large explosion about to reverberate all over the place, the collision in the air strangely did not emit even the slightest sound.

Numerous stunned gazes were slowly being lifted. After which, they eyed the two liquid-like clusters of different colored dark-red and golden-yellow that were eroding each other in the sky. Although this kind of exchange was silent, everyone's eyes still discovered that the space had become extremely distorted upon contact between these two energies. At a glance, it gave people a treacherous illusory feeling.

The completely silent arena was vaguely filled with a slight hissing sound that was being emitted from the energies eroding each other in mid-air. The dark-red and golden-yellow were like two clusters of extremely large clouds that covered the sky above the arena. The seemingly calm exchange contained the thought of swallowing the other party.

Xiao Yan's gaze stared intently at the two clusters of enormous energy in the air. After the ruler glow left the ruler, his entire body appeared to have become exhausted. His face was as pale as a sheet of paper and his body was quivering. If the heavy ruler in his hand had not made contact with the ground, it was likely that even his entire body would not be stable. Clearly, the 'Flame Splitting Tsunami' this time around had completely drained the last bit of Dou Qi within Xiao Yan's body.

Compared to Xiao Yan, Liu Qing appeared to be a little better. However, his expression was similarly as white as paper. His gaze anxiously eyed the two clusters of energy in mid-air. They were repeatedly eroding and swallowing one another.

A countless number of gazes paused on that scene occurring in mid-air. Immediately, the entire stadium was waiting for the result of the exchange between these two clusters of energy that contained such frightening destructive strength.

The two repeatedly swallowing and entangling dark-red and golden-yellow energy in mid-air suddenly became like boiling water under everyone's gazes. An intense ripple appeared. Immediately, the two clusters of energy suddenly swelled under everyone's uncertain gazes!

Numerous gazes were stunned as they watched the two clusters of enormous energy suddenly swell in a strange manner. They felt an uneasiness for some unknown reason.

After the swelling reached a certain limit, the two clusters of enormous energy suddenly ceased all actions. A strange dark, deep luster like a tiny bright dot suddenly surfaced... Following the appearance of that unusual luster, the space suddenly began to fluctuate. A little mutation seemed to

have appeared when the strongest attack of Xiao Yan and Liu Qing were in contact and swallowing each other. This kind of condition was something that even they themselves were surprised and at a loss about.

The light spot swiftly expanded within those two clusters of energy. In the end, the spot of light become increasingly eye-piercing. The rippling of the space had become increasingly intense at this moment.

All the Elders on the judges' seats frowned intently as they eyed the little change as the energy made contact. Dou Techniques of the Di class and above may be able to borrow the natural energy to strengthen their attacks. However, when it collided with a similarly strong Dou Techniques, it was extremely easy for different unexpected occurrences to appear. Some of these unexpected changes were something that even the people who used them could not anticipate. From the looks of the situation earlier, it was clear that an unusual change had occurred when Xiao Yan's and Liu Qing's attack were swallowing each other earlier.

First Elder Su Qian frowned slightly as he watched the increasingly eye-piercing, large light spot within the energy cluster. A moment later, he appeared to have sensed something and his expression suddenly changed. He stood up abruptly and moved his body before disappearing from the judges' seats.

The instant Su Qian disappeared, the two light spots in the sky appeared to be like balloons that had been pierced. A strange wild and violent natural energy immediately spread in the sky.

“Bang!”

The eye-piercing intense light scattered down from the horizon. As the natural energy became violent, the dark-red and golden-yellow energy cluster finally could not resist the unusual movement of energy. Immediately... a shocking thunder-like explosion that carried an extremely frightening windstorm came sweeping from above. Space rippled wherever the windstorm passed.

A countless number of people in the viewing gallery wore shocked expressions as they watched the energy windstorm that was swiftly

expanding. Even though they were far apart, they were still able to sense the horror within. If this windstorm were to spread over, it was likely that hardly any of them would be able to survive.

“Space Lock!”

An old figure suddenly flashed into the air in the nick of time. A cold cry sounded and a strange energy surged out from his body. Empty space had begun fluctuating like water rippling at this instant. Finally, it wiggled like lightning before finally completely solidifying!

The entire space above the arena including that spreading energy windstorm was completely solidified.

Although the energy windstorm was blocked by Su Qian, there were still two clusters of energy that had escaped. The clusters of these two energies followed the little thread of vague relation that remained from the two Dou Techniques that had been released. Under numerous shocked gazes, they collided against the bodies of the unprepared Xiao Yan and Liu Qing in a lightning-like manner.

“Grug!”

Being viciously knocked into by these wild and violent energies, a mouthful of fresh blood immediately came spitting out from the mouth of the two of them. In an instant, their bodies rubbed against the ground as they were violently shot out. Finally, they were like two black lines that smashed out of the arena and shot into two of the viewing galleries, giving rise to a commotion.

The expression on Su Qian’s face changed a little as Xiao Yan and Liu Qing were shaken and scattered by the energy that had spilled out. The energy that the two Dou Techniques had created possessed a wild and violent strength that was much stronger than the earlier pure Dou Technique strength after swallowing and eroding each other. At this moment, Xiao Yan and Liu Qing were both in an exhausted state. The result of being violently knocked against in this manner...

Su Qian’s expression was dark and solemn. The seal in his hand moved abruptly as his mouth cried out coldly, “Break!”



As the cry fell, the solidified energy windstorm was slowly annihilated and disappeared...

Su Qian waved his hand after destroying the energy windstorm and two Elders flashed out from the judges' seats. Finally, they flashed in the direction the two people that were flying back. A moment later, each of them carried two human figures with tattered clothes and blood traces on their body. Those traces of blood had appeared in the arena which was destroyed until it was a complete mess.

Everyone in the stadium hurriedly straightened their bodies. They eyed Xiao Yan and Liu Qing who had already fallen unconscious in the arena. Each of them quietly swallowed a mouthful of saliva and immediately smiled bitterly. These two crazy fellows... it was merely a fight for the top ten but they actually got themselves in this state...

"However, that fight earlier..." Everyone smacked their mouths as they savored the thrill from the sweeping energy windstorm from earlier. In hindsight, they felt that their heartbeat had become much faster.

Su Qian moved his body and appeared in the arena. He eyed the arena that was completely wrecked and helplessly shook his head. It seemed like this match had created the greatest destruction in the many years of the 'Strong Ranking' Grand Competition.

Su Qian lowered his body, and two waves of Dou Qi invaded the unconscious Xiao Yan and Liu Qing. A moment later, Su Qian sighed in relief. Fortunately, their lives were not in jeopardy despite their serious injuries.

A large group of figures also flashed down from the tall platform and immediately gathered around First Elder Su Qian and the others.

Yan Hao quietly glanced at Liu Qing, whose body was covered in fresh blood. A strange feeling involuntarily surfaced in his eyes. He muttered, "It is really unexpected. Even with Liu Qing's strength, he was actually turned into such a miserable state by Xiao Yan."

Lin Xiuya by his side nodded slightly with a calm expression. However, the hand in his sleeves trembled slightly. The destructive strength that

was contained in the two clusters of energy that the two people had created earlier was far too terrifying. He clearly understood that if any of those attacks landed on his body, he would likely become seriously injured or even die!

A figure strangely appeared beside Xiao Yan and her delicate hand held the latter's arm. A moment later, the figure finally sighed in relief. She turned around and smiled sweetly toward Wu Hao, Hu Jia, and the others, "Relax, he's fine."

Su Qian's old eyes studied Xun Er who had flashed down. He was slightly startled and immediately smiled in a friendly manner as he spoke, "Relax, he is alright."

Those people to his side were slightly stunned upon hearing Su Qian's friendly laughter. Su Qian held an extremely high position within the Inner Academy. Adding his frightening strength, there was rarely anyone who had the qualification to be treated in this manner by him.

Xun Er smiled sweetly at Su Qian, but did not reply. She merely helped Xiao Yan by rubbing the blood traces on his face while feeling some heartache. Her pretty, slightly frowning manner caused the hearts of the surrounding men to tighten.

"First Elder, now that the both of them are unconscious, who is considered the victor of this match?" An Elder suddenly asked hesitatingly as he eyed the two unconscious individuals.

The ears of the surrounding people were immediately lifted upon hearing these words. This was the most important matter.

Su Qian's brows were knit slightly. He had some difficulty deciding, "According to the rules, the both of them can be considered to have left the arena. Moreover, they are currently unconsciousness. It is difficult to clearly say who..."

Su Qian's voice had just fell when an arm that was covered with fresh blood was slowly lifted with great difficulty under the numerous shocked gazes from around.

“Cough... I... I still have a breath.”

# Chapter 580: Coming to a Close

Everyone watched the black-robed, young man who was raising his hand with great difficulty. His face was covered with traces of blood as he tried his best to prevent his eyes from closing. All of them were speechless. This fellow... was really a strong man who could not be beaten to death. He was still able to maintain some consciousness even after receiving such a frightening retaliation of the remnant Dou Techniques.

Surprise flashed across Su Qian's face. At this moment, Xiao Yan had clearly reached his true limit. The thing that supported him to keep his eyes open was perhaps that determination of having to enter the top ten.

Su Qian laughed bitterly and shook his head. He mused for a long while before slowly speaking, "This match ends in a draw. In other words, the both of you can be considered to have entered the top ten together. Therefore, you need not worry."

Xiao Yan half consciously heard these words of Su Qian. Only then did his tensed heart relax. His eyelids were swiftly shut and his consciousness gradually descended into darkness...

Su Qian sighed once again as he eyed Xiao Yan who had truly entered into an unconscious state at this moment. With Xiao Yan and Liu Qing's current injuries, it was likely that they would have to miss the few subsequent battles. Su Qian's gaze glanced at the unconscious Xiao Yan on the ground and he involuntarily shook his head once again. This fellow really exceeded people's expectations. Liu Qing was actually turned into this seriously injured condition even with his strength. This scene was likely something that most people present had not expected.

"First Elder if the two of them end in a draw, won't it mean that there will be eleven people in the top ten of the 'Strong Ranking' this season? In that case, there would also be eleven names who will enter the tower to have their body refined by the 'Essence Heart Flame'?" An Elder hesitated for a moment before opening his mouth and inquiring.

Su Qian nodded slightly. He said indifferently, "So be it, if need be there

can be eleven shares. Although the 'Essence Heart Flame' may be valuable, the Inner Academy also stored a couple of extra shares after so many years. It should not be a problem for us to take one share now. Otherwise, how would we account to these two people? After all, if we were to really discuss what happened in detail, the two of them had both left the boundary of the arena and it is very difficult to determine the victor."

All the Elders ceased saying anything after hearing the First Elder speak in this manner. They nodded their heads and withdrew.

"We will use the spare arena in the subsequent fights. However, due to their injuries, Xiao Yan and Liu Qing are unable to continue participating in the competition. However, the important matters have already been settled now that the names for the top ten have been determined. It does not matter that the two of them are not participating in the subsequent top ten ranking competition. After all, everyone's hearts have a scale of sorts to determine the true ranking namelist." Su Qian's gaze looked in all directions and spoke with a faint smile.

Everyone sighed in relief and nodded once Su Qian's words sounded. The frightening strength that these two fellows had demonstrated earlier had caused their hearts to feel a chill. They would have a much easier time without these two fighting for the ranking order.

Of course, this mood was not something that everyone had. At the very least Lin Xiuya sighed somewhat regretfully. Having lost opponents like Liu Qing and Xiao Yan, what was there to anticipate about the subsequent competition?

The unconscious Xiao Yan and Liu Qing were carried out of the arena under the numerous gazes filled with respect and reverence, and were sent to the resting area.

The competition still continued after Xiao Yan and Liu Qing's withdrawal. However, after the soul-stirring fight of the two earlier, the fights after that had difficulty causing everyone to feel overly shocked despite them being extremely intense. Those few people who participated

in these ranking fights were extremely helpless when faced with this. After all, the fight between Xiao Yan and Liu Qing had basically left the limit of an ordinary Dou Ling. How would they be able to surpass it?

The ranking competition continued all the way until the afternoon before it gradually came to an end. After an intense fiery hot fight, the new 'Strong Ranking' namelist was released.

The first was naturally that little monster Zi Yan. With her frightening and unusual strength, forget about the students, even some of the Elders could only dodge her. Even the haughty Lin Xiuya did not have the heart to fight for the first position.

There was also not much of a surprise for the second position. Having lost Liu Qing and of course the sudden emerging dark horse, Xiao Yan, who one must also consider, the remaining people were unable to shake him from his position. Hence, Lin Xiuya once again sat firmly on the second position of the strong ranking.

The third was originally Liu Qing. However, with his current withdrawal, his name was replaced by Yan Hao.

The fight for the fourth rank was much more intense than the couple of ranks in front. However, after various fights, Lin Yan finally unexpectedly won in the end, and rose to the fourth rank from the ninth rank in one go.

The fight for the remaining six names were similarly intense. When the competition was over, other than two of them being the former top ten, the remaining few were new people who had suddenly appeared. Due to lots being drawn, it was likely that they had some luck, however, their strengths were still extremely strong. After all, this 'Strong Ranking' was not an ordinary namelist. Even if one had sufficient luck, one must have a corresponding strength to support it if one wanted to reach the end.

Although the namelist for the 'Strong Ranking' had been determined, everyone's heart used its own measuring scale just like Su Qian had said. Therefore, although Xiao Yan and Liu Qing were similarly ranked tenth on the 'Strong Ranking', everyone, including Yan Hao who had obtained the third position, clearly knew in their hearts that this position still belonged

to that man with a domineering demeanor... No, there was still someone who stood shoulder to shoulder with him... Xiao Yan.

In that soul-stirring fight, Xiao Yan used his extraordinary fighting strength to subdue everyone's hearts. From that moment on, no one in the Inner Academy would dare look down on this new student who had entered the Inner Academy less than a year ago. At the same time, the reputation of 'Pan's Gate' naturally rose like a boat on a rising tide. The most important reason why Lin Xiuya's and Liu Qing's factions could be considered to be two extraordinary existence within the Inner Academy was because the two of them had a strength that far exceeded the remaining experts on the 'Strong Ranking'. However, the current 'Pan's Gate', this new student faction similarly possessed such an expert with extraordinary strength. The influence of 'Pan's Gate' would naturally rise in the future.

Just as everyone was about to bring an expression of having not been fully satisfied and leave the arena after the final fight ended, an additional fight caused their faces to be replaced by a stunned look.

According to the rules of previous seasons, there would be a couple of sparing like matches after the 'Strong Ranking' Grand Competition. In this kind of match, the competitors were able to choose anyone of the top ten on the strong ranking to challenge. Of course, the challenge here naturally did not have the formality of a true Grand Competition. In summary, it was just some additional fun even after the Grand Competition. Although it was only sparring, there would seldom be anyone who would actually participate. After all, these experts who were able to come out of the numerous selections had a strength that belonged to the top experts in the Inner Academy. Would it not be just seeking shame if one still wanted to challenge them despite clearly knowing that they were no match for these people?

However, this season's final fun event caused everyone to descend into a dull state. There was no other reason other than that the challenger was a young lady who was so pretty that it caused one to have an asphyxia. Additionally, it was because the opponent that this green-clothed, young

lady challenged was actually Lin Xiuya!

Of course, just this alone was not sufficient enough to cause the entire arena to enter into a dull state. Instead, in the subsequent sparring match...

An ordinary match merely lasted for less than ten minutes. However, just in these short ten minutes, Lin Xiuya who had been bitter about not having been able to find an opponent who could match him in the Grand Competition was defeated miserably.

Cold sweat appeared on Lin Xiuya's forehead as a pair of shallow fingers paused half an inch above it. He looked blankly at the faint smiling green-clothed, young lady in front of him and suddenly felt that his mouth was dry. He did not feel even the slightest bit upset in his heart. This was because in that exchange earlier, he was basically being forced back at every step. This may appear to be an extremely short amount of time but he had already taken out his strongest trump card. However, at the moment that he had just displayed his strongest Dou Technique, the green-clothed, young lady's finger flicked slightly, and a fiery hot golden-colored glow shook the technique until it completely disappeared.

The instant when his strongest Dou Technique was shaken until it disappeared, Lin Xiuya understood that this battle was basically meaningless. The two of them were of a completely different level. The subsequent attack of the opponent also caused him to abandon his last hope.

"I have lost." Lin Xiuya shrugged his shoulders in the arena and immediately laughed bitterly under the numerous shocked gazes in the arena, "I have always thought that Xiao Yan was the darkest dark horse this season. It is really unexpected that his little girlfriend is even darker than him. With your strength, you can go and directly find senior Zi Yan to spar with."

Numerous pairs of eyes from the viewing gallery were protruding out like dead fish. They really did not know what was happening at this moment.



This was especially so for Liu Fei on the tall platform. The expression on the face of hers was so interesting that it left one speechless. Of course, she had personally witnessed how the opponent whom her older cousin had viewed extremely seriously was easily defeated by a person whom she frequently ridiculed and cursed quietly. Such a great difference caused her to have difficulty accepting it.

“Challenge Zi Yan? That little girl might go and cry to Xiao Yan ge-ge. At that time, the one who would be scolded will be me.” The setting sun radiated from the horizon, covering the delicate, pretty body of the green-clothed, young lady in an obscure glow. Lin Xiuya’s heart appeared to have been heavily smashed by a hammer as he watched that elegant smile that carried a quietness on her flawless face. That kind of feeling... seemed to be called... love at first sight?

This kind of feeling caused Lin Xiuya to have the impulse to laugh spontaneously. The him who had always viewed women as something he can easily obtain would actually have this kind of...

“The reason for challenging you is merely because he said he wanted to see my dazzling sight. Unfortunately, he is unable to see it...” The green-clothed, young lady slowly withdrew the delicate finger from Lin Xiuya’s forehead and spoke in a distant manner.

Lin Xiuya widened his mouth. He, originally the most free and easy-going fellow in the Inner Academy, was stammering in embarrassment in front of this young lady.

“Relax, I am not very interested in being second on the ‘Strong Ranking’. Now that the sparring is over, I will still need to go and take care of Xiao Yan ge-ge.” Xun Er followed Xiao Yan’s manner as she shrugged her shoulders toward Lin Xiuya. She immediately turned around. Taking fine steps, she stepped on the ground, which was covered by the light from the setting sun, and with a sway of her green dress, she slowly disappeared from the stadium. A stadium so quiet that it was frightening.

“Why have I never discovered such an outstanding girl in the past...”

Lin Xiuya’s gaze was blurred as he watched the slim figure that had

gradually disappeared from his sight. His head was immediately pulled back as a complicated emotion toward Xiao Yan rose in his heart. It was jealousy and admiration...

# Chapter 581: Recuperation

The two or three days after the 'Strong Ranking' Grand Competition had come to a close, the entire Inner Academy was still remained in shock from those soul-stirring battles. Everybody in the Inner Academy was discussing the battles that occurred during the 'Strong Ranking' Grand Competition. Among those, the two battles of Xiao Yan against Liu Qing and Xun Er against Lin Xiuya were naturally the ones which were relished the most. This was especially the case for the latter. Everyone's faces still carried a shocked expression when discussing the latter. No one expected that this young lady, who appeared quite quiet despite having a stunning appearance, would actually hide such a frightening strength.

In the past there were even some people in the Inner Academy who had quietly mocked her as a flower vase because of her appearance. However, after this incident, everyone finally understood that the most frightening person within 'Pan's Gate' was not Xiao Yan. Instead, it was the beautiful, young lady who was always obediently behind him.

Borrowing the momentum that Xun Er and Xiao Yan had established, the reputation and status of 'Pan's Gate' had basically risen continuously within the short two to three days after. Every member of 'Pan's Gate' held their heads up high with a strong aura as they walked within the Inner Academy. The carefulness from the period earlier no longer existed. When passersby saw these members of 'Pan's Gate' their faces carried envious looks. With Xiao Yan and Xun Er, these two experts with extraordinary strength backing 'Pan's Gate', one could anticipate the day when the strength of 'Pan's Gate' would exceed that of the factions of Lin Xiuya and Liu Qing.

However, as different rumors were being spread wildly within the Inner Academy, the two main characters involved, Xiao Yan and Xun Er, had disappeared...

A few human figures were standing in a secret room within the small pavilion home of 'Pan's Gate'. Their gazes were resting on Xiao Yan who was sitting cross-legged on the bed with his eyes shut. At this moment,

Xiao Yan's expression no longer displayed the paleness from back then. From the pale-red luster, it appeared that his inner injuries had completely healed. Moreover, his breathing had already recovered the strength of the past. If one were to carefully sense it, one could even feel that this aura appeared to have an indication of not being very stable. This kind of unstable breathing was not foreign to Xun Er and the others beside her. This was because such a situation would occur each time their strength advanced.

"Xiao Yan has already trained for three days, why is he not done yet? Even if he is advancing his strength, it doesn't appear that it would take such a long time, right?" Wu Hao frowned at Xiao Yan with tightly shut eyes as he opened his mouth to speak.

"An ordinary advancement naturally does not need much time. Therefore, it is clear that he is not undergoing an ordinary advancement, stupid." A clear muttering voice sounded as Zi Yan, who wore a pale-purple ponytail rolled her eyes at Wu Hao while purposefully speaking in an aged voice. However, this explanation of hers caused Xun Er and the others to laugh spontaneously.

"What is there to laugh about? If this fellow continues to remain unconscious, I will have to nibble at those awful tasting things." Zi Yan frowned as she spoke in a distressed manner.

Xun Er rubbed Zi Yan's little head and smiled as she threw her gaze toward Xiao Yan who had his eyes tightly shut. She said, "This time around, Xiao Yan ge-ge suffered extremely serious injuries. The Dou Qi in his body had basically been completely exhausted during the fight with Liu Qing. However, it is because of this high level battle that enabled him to gain from the misfortune, obtaining an opportunity to advance his strength. Moreover, it is just as Zi Yan has said, the advancement of Xiao Yan ge-ge's strength is not an ordinary one. If I guess correctly, Xiao Yan ge-ge is likely to have his strength raised by more than one star if his advancement succeeds."

"You mean... continuously raising two stars? This kind of situation is extremely rare. Normally, unless one consumes some natural treasure or

medicine, it is very difficult for such a result to occur when simply undergoing an advancement.” Hu Jia was startled as she replied in a somewhat stunned manner, “Moreover, even if one consumed a medicine that results in one’s level rising one after another, there would be quite a few impurities. In the future, one would need to use extremely great effort in order to re-establish a firm foundation.”

Xun Er shook her head and laughed softly, “The battle this time around can be said to have had an extremely great benefit to Xiao Yan ge-ge. I am also not very certain why this kind of situation would appear, or just how much his strength will be raised. However, there is one key point, and that Xiao Yan ge-ge’s strength will advance greatly after this. All of you need not worry. This is not the least bit detrimental to him.”

“Alright, all of you still have other things to do. It is fine with just me here.” Xun Er pretty eyes stared at Xiao Yan’s face as she waved her hands toward Wu Hao and the others.

Wu Hao and the others could only shrug their shoulders when they heard this before leaving.

“Oh, that’s right, Xun Er, Lin Xiuya has come to ‘Pan’s Gate’ again saying that he would like to make a visit to the injured Xiao Yan.” Hu Jia’s footsteps suddenly paused as she knit her eyebrows, and turned her gaze toward Xun Er. “I don’t know what medicine this fellow took these past few days, but he keeps running to this place at all hours of time. I’ve never seen him this enthusiastic in the past. Don’t tell me that you have got him to chase after you after you defeated him?”

Xun Er was slightly startled. She randomly nodded and immediately said indifferently, “Just say that I am not free. You can just dispatch him. Xiao Yan ge-ge is at a critical juncture of his advancement and will not entertain any guests.”

Hu Jia rolled her eyes. Suddenly, she leaned close to Xun Er’s ears and softly said, “I think that the attitude that that fellow toward you seems a little strange. It seems that Bai Shan back then, and even Wu Hao... all are the same.”

Xun Er's bright eyes glanced at the strange face of Hu Jia as she spoke nonchalantly, "Don't say these words in front of Xiao Yan ge-ge in the future. Additionally, tell him that Xiao Yan ge-ge is not free these few days and that he need not come. Otherwise, no one will entertain him."

"What a pitiful fellow." Hu Jia spread her hands and mused for a moment. She said, "However, it doesn't seem nice if you don't show your face, no? He has come a couple of times but you have always avoided meeting him. No matter how little, he still has a friendship with Xiao Yan..."

Xun Er knit her eyebrows slightly and immediately nodded her head helplessly. She turned her body and walked out of the room, "Let's go, I will dispatch him."

Hu Jia extended her tongue as she watched Xun Er who had turned around and left. At the same time, she muttered in her mouth, "He can fancy anyone he wants, but if he takes fancy to this girl, who has hung all of her heart on this little fellow... he deserves it... deserves it."

Lin Xiuya sat in a chair in the living room. His finger slowly knocked against the surface of the table as his gaze looked all around him. For some unknown reason, he quietly felt somewhat anxious.

A group of people suddenly came swarming from the upper level as his gaze took a look around him. Lin Xiuya hurriedly stood up. A faint happiness flashed across his face without leaving his trance when his gaze swept over the green-clothed, young lady who was slowly descending.

"Senior Lin, Xiao Yan ge-ge is recuperating and cannot come out. I'm sorry." Xun Er slowly walked down the stairs and came to the hall. She smiled faintly at Lin Xiuya as well as Yan Hao beside him as she spoke.

"Ke ke, it's fine." Lin Xiuya smiled. It must be said that he was a little handsome and outstanding. Those green clothes of his gave off a somewhat dashing aura, and his voice was warm. It was little wonder why many female students called him the man who possessed the greatest charm in the Inner Academy.

However, this refined smile of his did not appear to have much effect on

the young lady in front of him. The latter sat elegantly in her chair, arranging her eyelashes. Her gaze never stopped on the former.

Lin Xiuya laughed bitterly in his heart when he saw this attitude of Xun Er. He finally sighed dispiritedly after the many conversations that he had rehearsed were replied to in an indifferent manner without leaving a trace. After which, he stood up, took a jade box from his storage ring and placed it on the table. He smiled and said, "This is a medicine that possesses quite a great healing effect. I think that it should have some use on brother Xiao Yan. Junior Xun Er, please do not reject this."

Xun Er hesitated for a moment before nodding her head slightly. Those bright eyes stopped on Lin Xiuya's face for the first time as she softly said, "In that case, Xun Er shall thank Senior Lin on behalf of Xiao Yan ge-ge."

"Ke ke, it's fine..." Lin Xiuya hurriedly waved his hand. Lin Xiuya merely felt that he could no longer maintain his indifferent wind-like expression after his face was being swept by the other party's eyes. He cupped his hands and brought Yan Hao to leave the hall in a somewhat miserable manner.

Xun Er did not have the slightest bit of intention of holding him back when he left. She nonchalantly left the jade box on the table and slowly walked to the second story.

"What a pitiful fellow..." Hu Jia eyed Lin Xiuya's back which no longer had that indifferent demeanor before looking at Xun Er who was not the least bit affected. Her face was immediately filled with sympathy as she clicked her tongue and smacked her lips.

"Hey, you fellow... she has only defeated you once and now you are smitten?" Yan Hao eyed the aura of Lin Xiuya in front of him outside of 'Pan's Gate.' He involuntarily pat his head as he spoke with a bitter smile.

Lin Xiuya smiled embarrassingly. He was also extremely helpless and had no solution. That kind of feeling was something that would come without notice. One would not be able to block it even if one wanted to.

"Ugh, looks like it is destined that you are going to be miserable. From the looks of her attitude, it is clear that she does not have the slightest

feelings for you. She repeatedly says 'Xiao Yan ge-ge' here and there. I don't think that you have any chance." Yan Hao sighed.

Lin Xiuya was silent. He also clearly understood what Yan Hao had said. From the looks of the attitude that Xun Er had displayed toward him earlier, he knew that his demeanor and appearance, that had always worked in front of other females, did not have the slightest impact on her. Xiao Yan did not appear to be any weaker than him in terms of training talent, accomplishment, etc. If it was him in that earth-shaking battle back then, it was likely that his ending would not be any better than Liu Qing's.

Moreover, from the elegant indifference that Xun Er displayed, he basically had no room he could occupy. All of these things clearly pointed to the fact that he, Lin Xiuya, did not have the slightest chance...

"Ugh." Lin Xiuya faced the sky and let out a long sigh. He shook his head with all his strength. A curse burst out from Lin Xiuya under Yan Hao stunned gaze, "Dammit. I am so jealous of Xiao Yan. Why does that brat have such good luck?"



# Chapter 582: Advancement of Strength

Xun Er quietly sat to one side in the quiet secret chamber. Her delicate hand held her cheeks and under her green-colored sleeves revealed snow-white wrists. A pair of bright treasure-like pupils used the little, gentle light to stared at Xiao Yan, who was sitting in a cross-legged manner with his eyes tightly shut.

It had been five days since the 'Strong Ranking' Grand Competition. However, Xiao Yan had still not shown any traces of waking up from his training. This caused Wu Hao and the others to be quite worried. They had suggested forcefully waking the former up from his training state a couple of times, but they were all stopped by Xun Er. With her eyesight, she was naturally able to sense that the Dou Qi in Xiao Yan's body was surging by the day. By the time he truly awoke, his strength would definitely advance greatly from the time when he was seriously injured. If he was woken up at this time, it would undoubtedly mean that he would lose this excellent advancement opportunity.

"Looks like there are no results today..." Xun Er sighed gently again after seeing that Xiao Yan still did not have any trace of waking up despite having waited for a long time. She muttered before standing up, preparing to leave.

However, the moment that Xun Er had stood up and was about to leave, a strange energy ripple suddenly surged within the secret room. Immediately, the former's pretty face became joyous. Her gaze suddenly turned toward Xiao Yan.

Not long after the ripple was emitted, a powerful aura suddenly surged out from Xiao Yan's body, whose eyes were still tightly shut. This aura soared repeatedly, and in an extremely short amount of time, it had exceeded the aura of Xiao Yan at his peak. Moreover, it was still continuing to climb.

Joy surfaced on Xun Er's face as she sensed the aura that was swiftly climbing. It was indeed as she had guessed. Xiao Yan had been repeatedly

absorbing an extremely large amount of energy into his body for the past couple of days. Now, under the assault of that large amount of energy, the barrier between the levels were easily destroyed.

The sudden soaring of the aura continued for a full five minutes before the increase finally came to a gradual stop. A moment later, an energy ripple suddenly spread out from Xiao Yan's body before finally colliding with the hard wall, shaking the secret room until it trembled.

After the energy ripple surged out, the strange, sleek redness on Xiao Yan's face gradually scattered until he recovered his usual color. His tightly shut eyes trembled slightly before finally being slowly opened to see Xun Er's joyous gaze.

As Xiao Yan's eyes were slowly opened, a cluster of green flame abruptly shot out before shrinking back in a lightning-like manner and disappearing.

“Hu...”

Mottled air that contained some black color was expelled by Xiao Yan. The black air slowly rose before making contact with the tough ceiling. Immediately, it corroded a small hole in the ceiling under an extremely soft ‘chi’ sound. Xun Er's brow were slightly knit when she witnessed this scene.

A layer of pale luster surfaced on Xiao Yan's face following the release of the mottled air. A joyous expression appeared without restraint on Xiao Yan's face as he sensed that the Dou Qi in his body was more than a couple of times stronger than before.

“Congratulations, Xiao Yan ge-ge. This serious injury has not only not left behind any seeds of trouble, but has instead allowed you to gain from misfortune. From the looks of your current aura, I think that your strength should be around that of a five star Dou Ling, no?” Xun Er parted her mouth and smiled as she saw the pleasant surprise all over Xiao Yan's face.

Xiao Yan sensed a little before nodding slightly. He smiled and said, “It should be around that of a five star Dou Ling.”

Although Xiao Yan was pleasantly surprised at having advanced two levels in one go, he did not feel that it was too inconceivable. Other people might feel disbelief over his strength suddenly soaring by two stars, but he had some clues regarding it. Although this great battle was the primary instigating factor, an even greater reason was because his body had swallowed various medicinal pills and natural treasures. One example was the 'Core Quenching Body Milk' that he had consumed some time earlier. Although most of it was used to refine Xiao Yan's body, there were still some remnant medicinal power that had seeped into various parts of his body. Due to Xiao Yan's body having fallen into a completely exhausted state, that hidden medicinal power naturally and automatically seeped out. Besides helping him heal his injuries, it also gifted him with an enormous help in raising his strength.

"But it seems that there are some problems within Xiao Yan ge-ge's body?" Xun Er took repeated steps until she was beside Xiao Yan. Her bright pupils looked at the latter and probed with a serious expression.

Xiao Yan was startled before immediately coming to a sudden understanding. It was likely due to her having witnessed that thread of black air earlier. Xiao Yan rubbed his head and said helplessly, "Back then, I helped Nalan Jie expel poison in order to obtain a medicinal ingredient. In the end, I got the poison into my body. However, it is fortunate that I have the protection of the 'Heavenly Flame', and that poison is unable to cause me any harm. Due to this, it has been hiding within my body, and I can only expel a little bit of it each time I advance my strength."

"Xiao Yan ge-ge is unable to settle it even with your alchemist skills?" Xun Er spoke in a somewhat startled manner.

"This poison is a little extraordinary. Back then, Nalan Jie, whose strength was at the Dou Wang class, nearly ended up dying because of it. How would it be so easy to completely expel?" Xiao Yan shrugged his shoulders and replied.

"Relax, it's fine. As long as the 'Heavenly Flame' is in my body, that thing will have no effect." Xiao Yan comforted. He immediately turned his body. He got down from the bed before twisting his body that had been sitting

for a couple of days. A bone cracking sound immediately sounded in a sweet manner within the secret room, much like beans being crushed.

“That’s right, what happened at the end of the ‘Strong Ranking’ Grand Competition? I should have entered the top ten right?” Xiao Yan suddenly recalled the most important matter and hurriedly asked.

“Ke ke, relax. You have already entered the top ten although you are ranked last.” Xun Er curled her lips and smiled. She eyed Xiao Yan’s face, which appeared to have released a heavy burden, before immediately adding, “Liu Qing has also entered the top ten.”

Xiao Yan was startled before he asked in a stunned manner, “In that case, who won?”

“The First Elder says that it was a draw. Therefore, the both of you were allowed to enter the top ten together.” Xun Er spoke with a sweet smile.

“So it’s like this... whatever. In any case, I don’t care how many people are in the top ten together as long as I am allowed to enter the depths of the ‘Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower.” Xiao Yan nodded his head unconcernedly. He stretched his lazy waist before swiftly walking out of the secret room. He muttered, “My bones are about to rust after staying here for so long. Girl, let’s go and taste some fresh air...”

Xun Er smiled when she heard this. She immediately nodded before following him.

Quite a large commotion was created when Xiao Yan and Xun Er appeared in ‘Pan’s Gate’. During this period of time, rumors of Xiao Yan’s serious injuries being difficult to cure had been spread in the outside world. Although Xun Er and the others had refuted the rumors during this period of time, Xiao Yan not revealing himself these past few days had caused the members of ‘Pan’s Gate’ to feel some uncertainty. They were naturally filled with joy and excitement now that they saw a perfectly fine Xiao Yan with a complexion that was even better than before.

Xiao Yan could not help but feel some surprise as he walked within ‘Pan’s Gate’. He discovered that there seemed to be even more members in ‘Pan’s Gate’ compared to before. Moreover, the overall atmosphere was

also extremely high. As he walked, those numerous gazes that shot toward him from all directions were filled with respect and fear.

“Hey, Xiao Yan, are you finally completely cured?” Lin Yan’s familiar voice suddenly sounded just as Xiao Yan was looking around him. Immediately, a human figure swiftly appeared by Xiao Yan’s side, revealing a face filled with joy as the former patted Xiao Yan’s shoulders.

Xiao Yan smiled to Lin Yan. His gaze suddenly paused on the latter’s chest. An extremely familiar badge was being worn on that spot. Xiao Yan immediately had a stunned expression.

“You... why are you wearing the badge for our ‘Pan’s Gate’?” Xiao Yan’s face was stunned.

“Big brother Lin Yan has already joined our ‘Pan’s Gate’. Is there any problem with him wearing our badge?” Xun Er by the side could not control herself as she laughed.

Xiao Yan stared dumbfoundedly. It was a long while later before he spoke with a strange face, “You, as a top ten expert in the ‘Strong Ranking’ are actually willing to lower yourself to join our ‘Pan’s Gate’?”

“What, lower? The reputation of the current ‘Pan’s Gate’ is something that even Lin Xiuya’s ‘Wolf Teeth’ and Liu Qing’s ‘Splitting Mountain’ cannot contend with. Although they do have the presence of experts sitting there, ‘Pan’s Gate’ has more experts than them. Forget about the ‘Brute-Force Queen’ who remains here all day. Even you are able to contend with an expert like Liu Qing. Moreover, there is still Xun Er. Hee hee, even the ranked two Lin Xiuya was easily defeated by her? Who in this Inner Academy still dares to say that ‘Pan’s Gate’ is weak and easy to provoke?” Lin Yan laughed.

“When did Xun Er defeat Lin Xiuya?” Xiao Yan was once again startled. His face showed surprise as he eyed Xun Er who was curling her mouth into a smile by his side.

“It happened in the sparring matches after the ‘Strong Ranking’ Grand Competition was over. Tsk tsk, you didn’t see that scene. Lin Xiuya was defeated in Xun Er’s hands in less than ten minutes. At that time, everyone

present appeared to have become dull.” Lin Yan waved his hand and laughed gloatingly.

The shock in Xiao Yan’s eyes grew denser as Lin Yan spoke. He knew that Xun Er had definitely hidden her actual strength. However, he did not expect that she would be this strong when she truly erupted. That Lin Xiuya was an expert that could contend with Liu Qing. Xiao Yan had spent all his strength in order to defeat Liu Qing, only to end up with the both of them seriously injured. He did not expect that this girl would be able to defeat Lin Xiuya within a short ten minutes. That strength... was likely to have also reached the Dou Wang class, right?

Xiao Yan involuntarily inhaled a breath of cold air as he thought of this possibility. This girl was really a little too frightening. Her current age appeared to be quite a lot younger than himself. A seventeen or eighteen year old Dou Wang? This kind of achievement was really able to cause those Elders within the Inner Academy to feel so inferior that they would cover their faces and weep.

As this thought flew in Xiao Yan heart, he also came to a sudden understanding upon recalling the ancient faction behind Xun Er. It appeared that she could not be viewed ordinarily.

Xun Er smiled gently, appearing to clearly understand the thoughts that lingered in Xiao Yan’s heart. Her delicate hand rubbed Xiao Yan’s arm. Which part of that extremely obedient manner was remaining from the cold manner that she had when challenging Lin Xiuya back then?

Lin Yan smacked his mouth when she saw the gentle and obedient manner Xun Er adopted toward Xiao Yan. Even a battle crazy fellow like him could not help but feel envy surfacing in his heart. How many people in this Inner Academy could enjoy this blessing of the fairer sex?

# Chapter 583: Deputy Commander of the Black Submerged Army, Ling Quan

Xiao Yan's days had once again become as calm as before after waking up. Although he would attract quite a number of surprised and various kinds of gazes each time he revealed himself in the Inner Academy, it became natural to him after getting used to it. After a long time, Xiao Yan was able to reach the point of completely ignoring them.

Although the Grand Competition had already ended, the matter regarding entry into the 'Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower' was being pushed back, perhaps in order to provide the competitors sufficient time to recuperate. This caused Xiao Yan, who was filled with anticipation, to begin feeling that it was difficult to pass the time.

Xiao Yan did not enter the 'Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower' to train during this period of time as he had just raised his strength by two stars. Instead, he chose to quietly refine the Dou Qi within his body that had suddenly soared. This kind of sudden, large increase in his Dou Qi may cause people's hearts to be filled with joy but such an abrupt surge did not have the same kind of firmness of Dou Qi that one received upon advancing one step at a time. Superficially advancing was a taboo in advancement. Hence, for the sake of the future, Xiao Yan must ensure that his body maintained a truly filled condition at all times, and not that kind of empty superficial strength.

The Junior Sect Leader of the Blood Sect which he had killed in the 'Black-Corner Region' was the best example of this. Although he had advanced to the Dou Ling class at such a young age, his strength was much weaker than an ordinary Dou Ling in a true fight. Moreover, due to his superficial strength and unstable Dou Qi, the fighting strength he displayed was naturally limited.

The originally superficial Dou Qi within Xiao Yan's body gradually became substantial during his laid back and quiet training every day. With the 'Green Lotus Core Flame', an excellent assistant in the refinement of

Dou Qi, the time and effort that Xiao Yan needed to spend in refining Dou Qi was clearly reduced and easier compared to that of an ordinary person.

For some unknown reason Xun Er liked to pull Xiao Yan away to enter the deep mountains together during this time that had once again become laid back. After which, they would lie on the lush green grass and cuddle together while the warm sunlight shone on them. The days were enriching and blessed. However, Xiao Yan felt a repeated inkling that something was about to happen while they made time to enjoy their enriching experiences in this quiet mountain forest... They were on a slightly inclined grass surface. The lush green-colored grass was like a green-colored carpet that extended to the edge of one's sight. There was an extremely spacious mountain gorge in the grassland not far below. The gorge was extremely deep. With the faint clouds lingering there, that place appeared to be like paradise.

Xiao Yan and Xun Er laid in the grassland. The faint sunlight covered their bodies, giving them a warm drowsy feeling.

Xun Er tilted her head slightly. Those gem-like bright eyes watched the calm and content face of the green-robed young man beside her who had his eyes shut. Her small mouth was slowly lifted into an arc. A moment later, she appeared to have recalled something, and her eyes became slightly gloomy. She spoke in a deep voice, "Xiao Yan ge-ge, you must definitely properly practice the scroll that Xun Er has given you after you reach the Dou Wang class in the future."

Xiao Yan opened his eyes when he heard the soft gentle voice beside his ear. He smiled and rubbed Xun Er's head while speaking, "That's only natural. How can I not put in all my effort to practice something that Xun Er gave me?"

Xun Er smiled and laughed sweetly upon hearing this. Her laughter was like that of a mountain stream colliding against a rock, crisp and pleasant.

"However, girl, why is it that you have appeared a little strange during these past few days?" Xiao Yan suddenly spoke as he looked directly at the moving face of Xun Er.



Xun Er was slightly startled. Her gaze flickered as she avoided Xiao Yan's gaze. She spoke in a soft voice, "No. I feel no different from in the past."

"Is that so?" Xiao Yan smiled. He was just about to say something when Yao Lao's solemn voice suddenly sounded in his heart, "There is a large group of auras flying in your direction. These auras are extremely strong, and their targets appear to be the both of you."

Xiao Yan was startled when he heard Yao Lao's words. His expression immediately changed. Without having time to think why such a large group of extremely strong foreign auras had appeared within the Inner Academy, Xiao Yan stood up and pulled Xun Er, preparing to leave this place.

The latter appeared to have faintly sensed something when Xiao Yan pulled her up. Her pretty face immediately changed as she hurriedly pushed Xiao Yan into the forest. Her mouth anxiously spoke, "Xiao Yan ge-ge, quickly go and hide. Do not come out no matter what!"

"What is it? Are those people coming after you?" Xiao Yan grabbed Xun Er's delicate hand and spoke with a sinking expression.

Xun Er's gaze swept over the distant northern horizon. She sensed the auras that were swiftly rushing over, and her delicate hand hurriedly pressed against Xiao Yan's body. She spat out forcefully and a gentle wind pushed Xiao Yan into the forest. At the same time, she instructed, "Xiao Yan ge-ge, suppress your aura and don't allow them to discover you."

Xiao Yan's expression kept changing after being pushed by Xun Er into the forest. He did not understand why Xun Er would suddenly become this anxious.

"Just who are these people?" Xiao Yan's fist slowly tightened as his gaze followed Xun Er, and turned to the northern horizon. An unusual anger was quietly rising in his heart.

A large cluster of rushing wind sound appeared from the sky not long after Xiao Yan was pushed into the forest. Finally, over ten extremely small black dots appeared on the northern horizon. The route of these black dots was extremely clear. They were directly rushing to where Xun

Er was.

As the sharp rushing wind sound became more intense, the speed of the black dots became even faster. Finally, they appeared within a visible boundary.

Xiao Yan's gaze passed through the gap between the tree leaves and watched those ten plus black spots within his sight. Shock immediately surfaced on Xiao Yan's face. Those black spots were not human figures, but were over ten completely black Magical Beasts with silver-colored horns on their heads that were over a foot long. The horns were filled with strange lines, and a wild thunderous sound was emitted from them. There were four large wings which grew on the back of the Magical Beast. A wild wind howled and whistled down from the sky as the wings were flapped, suppressing the forest until it rested a little lower.

Xiao Yan had never seen or heard of these foreign Magical Beasts. However, this did not hinder him from feeling stunned in his heart. This was because he had sensed an extremely ferocious aura from these Magical Beasts. Clearly, these Magical Beasts were not merely ordinary transport Magical Beasts, but a kind of flying combat beast.

Flying beasts were rare in and of themselves. Flying beasts used in combat were even rarer. Only those extremely large factions had the capital to breed and tame them.

Xiao Yan's gaze shifted away from these four-winged horned beasts before finally stopping on their enormous backs. Xiao Yan was once again startled. He saw that there was a human figure standing on the backs of each of the four-winged horned beasts.

These people were wearing purple-black robes on their bodies and displayed expressionless faces. As their gazes shifted slightly, they appeared like sharp blade glows that caused one to feel a chill over one's body. Xiao Yan was somewhat shocked to realize that the aura of all of these these ten plus human figures were just like deep lakes where one could not see the bottom. This kind of situation was something that Xiao Yan was only able to sense from those Elders within the Inner Academy.

The ten enormous four-winged horned beasts flapped their wings before finally stopping in the mountain gorge. Numerous gazes swept toward the green-clothed young lady standing in the grass.

“Ke ke, Xun Er xiao-jie. I have finally found you.” The leading four-winged horned beast descended slowly. On it was a man who spoke with a laugh to Xun Er.

This man was not considered very old. From the looks of his appearance, he appeared to be around twenty-four to twenty-five. His appearance was extremely handsome and relaxed and could compare with Lin Xiuya. The purple-black robe on his body caused him to have an additional steady aura compared to Lin Xiuya. Most importantly, this man seemed to be the leader of this group. This was because the positions the other nine people stood in were clearly behind him. Such small and insignificant details were the best at revealing the differences in status.

“I am the new deputy commander of the Black Submerged Army, Ling Quan. I have been ordered by the clan leader to bring xiao-jie back!” The man who called himself Ling Quan stood on the four-winged horned beast as he cupped his hands toward Xun Er, and spoke respectfully to Xun Er.

“I have said that I will return by myself. Why do all of you have to hurry over from such great distance?” The sudden arrival of Ling Quan and the others caused Xun Er’s expression to become cold. Therefore, her words also contained a chillness when she spoke.

“The clan head has given the instructions as such we can only obey them.” Ling Quan smiled slightly. He was just about to say something when his eyes suddenly solidified. His gaze was instantly thrown toward the forest as he spoke in a deep voice, “Who is eavesdropping?”

Ling Quan words had just sounded when the expressions of the nine human figures who were quietly standing on the four-winged horned beasts’ back instantly turned cold. In an instant, the bodies of the nine human figures flashed into the forest. A wave of low and deep collision sounds appeared immediately.

“Stop!” Xun Er’s pretty face changed as she cried out sternly.

As Xun Er's stern voice sounded a human figure suddenly came out from the forest. Finally, he flapped his wings and paused in mid-air before eventually slowly landing beside Xun Er. He was Xiao Yan whose clothes were somewhat disorderly.

"Xiao... are you alright?" Xun Er's pretty face was anxious when she saw Xiao Yan's somewhat panted breathing. Her habitual form of address was just about to be shouted out when she became cautious. Immediately, she forced herself to become calm as she asked.

Xiao Yan frowned a little because of this change of Xun Er. He asked, "What is happening?"

After Xiao Yan flashed out of the forest, the nine human figures also appeared to be like a single body as they came out together. Finally, they landed behind Ling Quan. Their gazes were like sharp knives that were firmly locked onto Xiao Yan.

You..." The change of the expression on Xun Er's face did not escape Ling Quan's notice. The latter's eyes narrowed slightly as he immediately turned to look at Xiao Yan who had appeared. He was slightly startled when he saw that face. His finger gently knocked on his forehead as he suddenly spoke in a half smiling manner, "If my guess is correct, this should be that Young Master Xiao Yan who was once the trash of the Xiao clan? I have seen a drawing of you."

"Who are you?" Xiao Yan's face was as deep as water as he asked in a deep voice.

"The deputy commander of the Black Submerged Army. However, it is pointless telling you this. You, or perhaps I should say the Xiao clan, does not have the qualification to come into contact with such a level." Ling Quan smiled as he replied. His voice contained an extremely straightforward contempt. He had long heard of the news of the Xiao clan nearly being exterminated. The current Xiao clan had completely declined. In what way did they possess the greatness they had back then?

Xiao Yan's expression gradually turned dark, cold upon hearing the disdain that Ling Quan words had toward the Xiao clan. His hand also

slowly grabbed the Heavy Xuan Ruler.

# Chapter 584: Separated

“Ling Quan, shut your mouth! The Xiao clan and our clan have a treaty of alliance. How can we allow you to open your mouth to insult them?” Xun Er shouted sternly toward Ling Quan. Her heart became anxious as she sensed Xiao Yan’s expression becoming darker and colder.

“Ke ke, xiao-jie you need not be angry. It is just that I am a little outspoken.” Ling Quan smiled. He changed his words only to suddenly say, “However, the clan head instructed me before my journey that I should inquire about the location of the key from the Xiao clan if I meet Young Master Xiao Yan.”

When he spoke until this point, Ling Quan smiled and turned his gaze toward Xiao Yan, “May I inquire if Young Master Xiao Yan can inform me?”

Xun Er’s heart shook when she heard this, being afraid that Xiao Yan would reveal some traces. She was just about to interrupt when Xiao Yan by the side knit his brows and asked uncertainly, “Key?”

Ling Quan frowned as he watched Xiao Yan’s doubtful expression. He quietly spoke in his heart, “Don’t tell me he doesn’t know? Now that the Xiao clan has fallen apart, no one knows whether the ‘Hall of Souls’ has snatched the key. It would be troublesome if they have already obtained it.”

“I have not obtained any news of that ‘key’ after staying in the Xiao clan for so many years. Aren’t you dreaming if you think you can obtain it so easily?” Xun Er sighed in relief within her heart as she spoke indifferently.

“Ke ke, I am only randomly asking. The main purpose of my journey here is to bring Young Miss back. The other things are just offshoots.” Ling Quan smiled and immediately bowed to Xun Er and said, “Young Miss, please! The clan head really misses you.”

Xun Er knit her eyebrows. She shook her head slightly and was just about to move her foot when Xiao Yan by the side grabbed her hand. He inquired in a low voice, “Are you leaving?”

“Xiao Yan ge-ge, I have already left the clan for many years and have already delayed the time of my return a couple of times. This time around, it appears that I cannot push it back. Xiao Yan ge-ge, remember the words that I spoke to you before. You must not reveal the news that the ‘Tou She Ancient God’s Jade’ is in your hands. In the future, you will also know who exactly the faction is behind Xun Er. However, Xiao Yan ge-ge must not come and look for Xun Er before you possess the strength to protect the ancient jade. Otherwise, some people in the clan will definitely hold you there. The ancient jade in your hands has too great of an implication.” Xun Er lowered her head slightly while her lips moved gently. A gentleness that carried a pleading voice was transmitted to Xiao Yan’s ears.

Xiao Yan’s expression was volatile. The hand which held Xun Er’s arm trembled slightly.

“Xiao Yan ge-ge, Xun Er will wait for you. I will wait until you have become an expert that looks down on everyone. Xun Er has always believed that you will stand at the peak of the continent. At that time, the declined Xiao clan will once again stand on the continent because of you!”

Xiao Yan’s arm trembled repeatedly. His emotions had become a mess due to Xun Er’s words. Although he was no longer the impulsive young man he used to be after the experience these years have brought him. Experiencing this kind of separation after experiencing the upheaval of his clan really caused him to have a feeling of being unable to accept the situation. Moreover, only at this moment of separation did he clearly realize just what kind of weight the young lady in front of him occupied within his heart...

“Young Master Xiao Yan, this is our mission. Therefore, please release our xiao-jie.” The expression in Ling Quan’s eyes slowly became cold as he watched Xiao Yan who was holding onto Xun Er’s arm. However, his face still carried a warm and inspiring smile.

Xiao Yan completely ignored Ling Quan’s words. His gaze stared intently at Xun Er. A moment later, he finally slowly released his arm under the malicious gaze of Ling Quan. However, just as Xiao Yan was about to release Xun Er’s arm, his hand was abruptly extended and rounded that

delicate and soft waist. He violently pulled her into a hug and his head was buried in the black hair of Xun Er which emitted a faint clean fragrance. He muttered, "Xun Er, wait for me. I will go and look for you! I don't care how large or frightening the faction behind you is. You are mine. If I need to reach Dou Zun in order for the faction to look straight at me, I will strive to become a Dou Zun. If Dou Zun won't do, then Dou Sheng. If Dou Sheng won't do, then Dou Di! The ancestor of the Xiao clan was able to reach that height back then. I, Xiao Yan, will definitely also be able to!"

The back of Xun Er's teeth bit her lower lip. Her gem-like pupils flickered a little. "Fool, if you were to really reach Dou Di, you could choose any girl you want in the continent."

The smile on Ling Quan's face was finally withdrawn a little as he watched Xiao Yan boldly pull Xun Er into a hug. His eyes were as dark and cold as the blade of a knife as they paused on Xiao Yan's body. He slowly tightened his fist. A faint substance-like flame gushed out from his fist.

Xun Er forcefully escaped from Xiao Yan's hug after having appeared to sense the fluctuation of the natural energy. She swiftly spoke in a soft voice beside his ear, "Remember what I have said. At the very least, do not come into contact with my clan before you have reached Dou Zong." Once she said this, Xun Er turned around and her toes pressed gently on the ground. Her body flashed into the air before her shoulders shook slightly. A pair of brilliant golden-colored Dou Qi wings surfaced on her back. The pair of wings flapped and she landed on one of the four-winged horned beasts. Finally, she was carried by the latter under a wild wind, and flew toward the distant horizon.

The nine human figures behind Ling Quan also swiftly flashed onto the four-winged horned beasts before finally catching up in a lightning-like manner and firmly protecting her in their midst.

Xiao Yan's heart had a desolate feeling as his gaze firmly looked at the four-winged horned beast which had gradually become distant. He turned his gaze before finally stopping on the body of Ling Quan who was still standing in the same spot. He spoke faintly, "Isn't deputy commander Ling Quan leaving?"



“I am not in a hurry.” Ling Quan smiled. His smile gradually became cold as his gaze looked at Xiao Yan in a dark and cold manner. He coldly laughed, “It is just that I want to inform you of something. With your achievements and the background of the Xiao clan which has become like a dog which has lost its home, you are not good enough for xiao-jie. I will tell you honestly. The clan head has already guessed that xiao-jie might have some feelings for you. Therefore, he had tasked me to bring some words to you. Forget xiao-jie. It is best that you treat those matters of the past as though they have never happened. Xiao-jie has an extremely important position in the clan. Only the truly strong people in the continent are good enough for her. You... Are not worthy!”

Ling Quan’s face contained harsh disdain during those last three words. Xun Er was sought after by all the geniuses in the clan. He was naturally included among them. However when he saw that Xiao Yan had actually dared to pull Xun Er into a hug earlier, it was likely that he would have been unable to control himself and kill Xiao Yan on the spot had he not been taken into account by Xun Er’s presence. Now that he was conveying a message, he naturally needed to dig and ridicule all he could. According to his presumption, it would naturally be a most satisfactory result if he could use words to devastate Xiao Yan.

However, the Xiao Yan in front of him was unexpectedly calm after his words sounded. His indifferent black pupils stared at Ling Quan. A moment later, he laughed softly, shook his head and spoke, “It is not up to you to find fault with whether I am good enough. Moreover... you should be jealous of me, right?”

The meanness on Ling Quan’s face was slowly withdrawn as he looked at Xiao Yan in a gloomy manner, “Are you seeking death? Don’t think that you can be this arrogant because xiao-jie is protecting you. If I want to kill you, it would be like crushing an ant.”

Xiao Yan indifferently studied Ling Quan whose face hid a killing intent. The manner which did not have the slightest fear caused the killing intent within Ling Quan’s heart to writhe repeatedly. He hated this ant-like fellow displaying such an indifferent manner.

Just as Ling Quan's killing intent slowly spread, a faint old voice suddenly sounded in the grassland, "Deputy commander, letting all of you enter the Inner Academy is already a great act of tolerance. Now you are actually thinking of acting against a student of our Academy?"

A black figure strangely appeared in mid-air as the old voice sounded. It was surprisingly First Elder Su Qian.

The killing intent on Ling Quan's body was swiftly withdrawn when he saw Su Qian appearing. He cupped his hands toward the former and laughed, "What is First Elder saying. I am merely having a heart to heart conversation with Young Master Xiao Yan."

"Alright, don't beat around the bush in front of me. I have already given the greatest face to your clan by allowing you to come and search for a person. You should leave immediately now that you have found her." Su Qian knit his brows and spoke in a deep voice.

Ling Quan smiled when he heard Su Qian giving the order to expel him, but did not retort. He bowed his body slightly toward the former before once again turning toward Xiao Yan. He gave a superficial smile and said, "Looks like you have not given up. All right, if you have the ability in the future, you can come to look for the Young Miss (xiao-jie) in the clan any time. At that time, this deputy commander will let you witness the true gap between us."

Ling Quan's shoulders trembled upon saying this. A pair of deep-red Dou Qi wings shot out. The pair of wings were flapped slightly before his body swiftly rose into the air. He finally flew in a lightning-like manner into the horizon, disappearing from the edge of the sky in a short time.

Su Qian's body slowly descended as he watched Ling Quan leave. He landed beside Xiao Yan and patted his shoulders. He sighed, "Little fellow, don't allow that fellow to give you a blow. Otherwise, you will really align yourself with his intentions. Their clan is a little different from ordinary people. They are somewhat blessed when they train. If one were to truly discuss about training talent, he would not be able to match you."

Xiao Yan smiled slightly and quietly nodded. He spoke softly, "If he were

to really act just now, I would have let him leave something behind even if I had to fight all out until I ended up seriously injured.”

Su Qian was slightly startled he he heard that soft spoken Xiao Yan’s words. He clearly knew that the former was not simply trying to be brave... he nodded and smiled as he said, “I believe that it is not surprising for a person who was able to rely on his own strength to turn the Misty Cloud Sect upside down has this ability.”

“Ke ke, alright. Little fellow, tomorrow is the time to enter the ‘Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower’ to receive the refining of one’s body by the ‘Heart Flame’. If you are able to endure it, it will pave the way for the advancement into the Dou Wang class. It is useless saying anything now. Only by becoming a truly strong person would you be able to go to that clan and search for your little girlfriend.” Su Qian patted Xiao Yan’s shoulders and comforted. He immediately turned his body and walked slowly toward the forest.

Xiao Yan smiled and nodded. He eyed Su Qian’s back which had disappeared within the forest. Only then did he turn around and throw his gaze toward the distant northern horizon. He muttered, “Xun Er... wait for me. Moreover...” Xiao Yan’s fist slowly extended out from his sleeves. Drops of blood was seeping out from the gap between his fingers. That meanness and disdain of Ling Quan from earlier did not have no impact on Xiao Yan.

“Ling Qian right... I will remember this debt and humiliation...”

# Chapter 585: Entering the Lowest Level of the Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower

Xiao Yan coincidentally met both Wu Hao and Hu Jia the moment he returned to 'Pan's Gate'. The two saw the former's gloomy face and looked at each other. They did not understand who had angered this fellow whose face always carried a smile.

Their gazes drifted toward Xiao Yan's back. Hu Jia appeared to have discovered something as she involuntarily asked in a soft voice, "Where is Xun Er?"

Xiao Yan slowly sighed and replied, "She left."

"Left?" Wu Hao and Hu Jia were immediately stunned when they heard this. Their faces were immediately filled with surprise, "Where has she gone to? When will she be back?"

"She has returned to her clan. It is likely that she will not return again in the future." Xiao Yan's footsteps paused at the main entrance and spoke in a faint voice. He immediately pushed the door and entered. After which, the door emitted a 'bang' and was heavily shut.

Wu Hao and Hu Jia stared blankly at the tightly shut main entrance. It was a long while later before they sighed in a somewhat desolate manner. After having gotten along for so long, nearly everyone within 'Pan's Gate' had nothing but esteem and respect toward that young lady who always carried a gentleness and a smile. It was natural that their hearts felt as though something was lacking now that they heard she had left.

"Ugh, it is likely that the emotions of quite a number of 'Pan's Gate' members will fall if this news is released." Hu Jia sighed.

Wu Hao nodded with a bitter smile. He spoke softly, "No wonder I kept having the feeling that Xun Er was a little strange recently. She was actually about to leave."

"It is likely that Xiao Yan doesn't feel good in his heart." Wu Jia helplessly spread her hands. She immediately turned around, walked

toward the outside, and spoke, "Forget it. I shall not disturb him and let him be alone."

Wu Hao nodded and followed her with low spirits.

The small room which contained a faint delicate fragrance still had the remnant scent of the young lady. Xiao Yan's body lay on the soft bed and slowly shut his eyes. The moving frown and smile of that young lady within his mind was like a blade cutting at him. He deeply imprinted it into the depth of his memories.

He never experienced this feeling when the beauty was around. Only now that the scented figure had gone far away did these feelings climb up from the depths of his innermost memories. It was like a total mess that was lingering around his heart... Xiao Yan inhaled a deep breath of air. He knew that her figure would likely accompany him for the rest of his life...

"I will look for you..." Xiao Yan's hand that was holding onto the blanket tightened slowly as he muttered softly to himself within the room.

.....

The Inner Academy which was calm for a period of time once again became lively the next day. This was because today was the day that the top ten experts on the 'Strong Ranking' could enter the 'Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower' to receive the 'Essence Heart Flame' and refine their body. Everyone in the Inner Academy clearly knew that as long as one managed to endure such a refinement of one's body, it would basically pave the way for one to advance to a Dou Wang in the future. Such an opportunity, that one could meet but could not hope for, was sufficient to cause anyone to want it and feel envious.

A large group of members from 'Pan's Gate' swarmed in front of the small pavilion home within 'Pan's Gate'. They eyed the tightly shut doors and emitted soft private whispers.

"Creak!"

The tightly shut door suddenly emitted a slight sound. All the private conversations ceased immediately. The numerous gazes that were staring

at the door contained a fiery heat and respect.

A black-robed, young man slowly walked out under all the heated gazes. That seemingly warm face caused all the members of 'Pan' Gate' to be roused with force and spirit. As the true leader of the current 'Pan's Gate', each and every single action of Xiao Yan would affect the spirits of the entire 'Pan's Gate'. As long as Xiao Yan was not defeated no matter what kind of opponent he met, the members of 'Pan's Gate' would have never ending fighting spirit and confidence.

Wu Hao and Hu Jia quietly sighed in relief as they saw Xiao Yan recovering his original expression. If he was to still act as desolate and gloomy as yesterday in such a situation, it was likely that he would cause the emotions of everyone present to fall.

Xiao Yan's gaze looked all around the area. Each time his gaze shot to a certain area, the members of 'Pan's Gate' would involuntarily lift their head and raise their chest. Their gazes were fiery hot and excited.

Xiao Yan smiled slightly as he slowly raised his hand. It fell immediately as his voice spoke briefly, "Let's go!"

Upon saying this. Xiao Yan's footsteps took the lead as they walked out of 'Pan's Gate'. A large group of members of 'Pan's Gate' marched forth and followed closely behind him.

With such a large group moving around, the commotion that they caused was quite great. Numerous gazes shot over and when they saw the young man in a black robe leading, they realized the cause of this and followed behind the proud Pan's Gate members with faces full of envy.

Due to the sale of medicinal pills, the current 'Pan's Gate' had truly monopolized the entire Inner Academy's medicinal pill market. Even that 'Medicinal Gang' was finding it increasingly difficult to compete with 'Pan's Gate' following the increase in the latter's strength. The abundant 'Fire Energy' had caused the special 'Fire Energy' reward and punishment system within 'Pan's Gate' to become increasingly perfect. Therefore, even some of the students within the Inner Academy who had already entered long ago had become envious of the treatment that the members of 'Pan's

Gate' were receiving.

A large group of people marched forth in a mighty manner and headed directly toward the 'Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower'. They met a few other factions along the way. However, their momentum and aura were undoubtedly much weaker when compared to 'Pan's Gate'. Although most of the leaders of the other factions were experts in the top ten of the 'Strong Ranking', they did not dare to show any pride in front of Xiao Yan, this special existence who could even beat Liu Qing to the point where the latter was seriously injured. After all, they clearly understood that if Xiao Yan and Liu Qing had not fought until they were both seriously injured, it was likely that the both of them would be the greatest contenders for the top three spots.

Xiao Yan and Lin Xiuya's group, which were similarly rushing over came into contact as they were about to reach the 'Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower'. Both groups were startled when they met before they immediately greeted one another.

Xiao Yan's gaze swept over a group of merely twenty plus people behind Lin Xiuya as they greeted one another. His heart let out a quiet praise. Although the number of people in this group were not as many as that of 'Pan's Gate', all of their auras were concealed while the glow in their eyes flickered occasionally. From the agglomeration of the auras all over their bodies, most of their strength should be around that of a one star Dou Ling.

"I think that this is the 'Wolf Teeth' that is renowned within the Inner Academy. There are not many people but each of them could fight against ten. This is a true elite."

While Xiao Yan was observing the 'Wolf Teeth' behind Lin Xiuya, the latter's gaze also partially drifted toward Xiao Yan's side. However, he did not see that figure which had been deeply imprinted in his mind. Disappointment immediately flashed across his eyes. He quickly engaged in a chat with Xiao Yan as they swiftly walked toward the top of the tower, which had appeared at the edge of their sight.

The place was already crowded by a huge number of people by the time Xiao Yan's group arrived. Due to the top ten of the 'Strong Ranking' about to enter the bottom of the tower, the Inner Academy had already prohibited the remaining students from entering. Although this action caused everyone to complain, they also knew that this was a rule established generations ago, and they were helpless in doing anything about it.

The appearance of Xiao Yan's large group immediately attracted the attention from everywhere. Xiao Yan, who had a current reputation and prestige that did not lose to Lin Xiuya, was naturally instantly recognized by everyone. Immediately, various voices sounded in the crowd.

Xiao Yan ignored these noises. His group relied on their large number, and he like a sharp knife being inserted into the group, split them apart. Finally, they swaggered toward the empty land just outside the main entrance of the 'Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower'.

There was a spacious area in the empty space in front of the main entrance. However, this kind of area was reserved for the use of those factions with quite a great strength. The current 'Pan's Gate' naturally possessed such a qualification. Hence, the group was unceremonious as they searched for a good spot before sitting down with their legs crossed.

Xiao Yan watched the group of people who were squeezing behind him and involuntarily exhaled. Over half a year ago, he too, only had the qualification to stand outside and watch those factions occupy the best spots with envy. It was unexpected that his position had currently been exchanged.

"Hey, Liu Qing is also here." Lin Xiuya's body suddenly flashed to Xiao Yan's side and sat down before curling his lips in one direction as he spoke.

Xiao Yan was startled when he heard this. His gaze also turned in the same direction as Lin Xiuya's and he did indeed see a commotion suddenly occurring within the crowd. After which, a group of people with an overbearing aura broke into them before rushing toward where the main



entrance was. The leader of that group was Liu Qing who was carrying the Mountain Splitting Spear on his back. Behind him was Liu Fei, Yao Sheng as well as a group of men whose figures were quite strong and whose auras were not any weaker than the members of Lin Xiuya's 'Wolf Teeth'.

Liu Qing sensed something when Xiao Yan's eyes focused on the former. Turning his head slightly, his eyes collided with that of the black-robed, young man who was sitting cross legged on the ground.

Four eyes watched each other and Liu Qing's footsteps gradually slowed. As the focus of the entire place, each and every single action of his naturally got the attention of everyone. Hence, numerous gazes were once again turned toward Xiao Yan.

The surrounding private conversations immediately became much quieter upon seeing these two opponents who could be described by the phrase 'enemies frequently cross paths'.

Liu Qing hesitated for a moment under the focus of the surrounding gazes. However, he led his group slowly toward where Xiao Yan and the others were.

The members of 'Pan's Gate' behind Xiao Yan immediately became much more tense when they saw Liu Qing's large group of swarming over. Each of their gazes revealed enmity. There were even some who drew their weapons.

This action of both parties immediately caused the surrounding voices to completely become quiet. They eyed these two factions that seemed to be about to engage in a large scale intense fight.

Liu Qing's footsteps stopped at a distance of around ten meters from the members of 'Pan's Gate'. He waved his hand and the large men with overbearing auras stopped their feet at the same time. The orderly sound of footsteps landing on the ground emitted a bang that was filled with an imposing presence.

Liu Qing brought Liu Fei and Yao Sheng as he slowly stopped in front of Xiao Yan. His gaze stared intently at the smiling face of the young man. A moment later, he spoke in a deep voice, "You are very strong. I have

underestimated you.”

Xiao Yan smiled as he cupped his hands toward Liu Qing and said, “I was merely lucky.”

“Luck does not exist in a fight.” Liu Qing said faintly. His boiling hot gaze immediately turned toward Xiao Yan as he spoke, “However, I have one additional opponent from now on. This is an extremely good thing for me. I will come and look for you to spar if there is time in the future.”

Liu Qing did not wait for Xiao Yan to reply after saying those words. He turned around and brought everyone to sit down at a spot not far away, quietly waiting for the door of the tower to open.

Xiao Yan helplessly shook his head as he watched Liu Qing and the others, who turned around and left. This fellow was actually quite troublesome...

There were some other people who rushed over after Liu Qing’s followers all came. Finally, after nearly half an hour, the sound of rushing wind suddenly came from the sky. A couple of old figures appeared outside of the tower’s door. The person leading them was surprisingly the First Elder, Su Qian.

“Ke ke, looks like everyone has arrived. In that case, I shall not say any unnecessary words.” Su Qian’s gaze took one look around. He did not waste his breath as he waved his hand. The heavy tower door creaked before slowly opening.

“The eleven people within the top ten of the ‘Strong Ranking’ should follow me. Everyone else is not allowed to enter today. Otherwise, you can forget about entering it within the next half a year.” Su Qian spoke in a faint voice before immediately ignoring everyone who was shocked by this severe punishment until their necks shrank. He immediately turned around and walked toward the tower.

Xiao Yan was the first to stand up after seeing Su Qian’s back. After which, he stepped into the ‘Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower’ under numerous envious gazes!

# Chapter 586: Essence Heart Flame

The bright light immediately became much darker after entering the 'Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower'. Xiao Yan raised his gaze only to see Su Qian pausing at this place appearing to be waiting for them.

Su Qian smiled at Xiao Yan when he saw that the latter was the first to enter. He eyed the expression which showed he had recovered to his previous self and nodded his head, feeling pleased. He quietly praised in his heart, "This little fellow not only possesses shocking talent, but his character is also this tough. It is not a coincidence that he has so many achievements."

Lin Yan, Lin Xiuya, and the others came in one after another not long after Xiao Yan entered. The eleven people stopped in front of Su Qian. Other than Zi Yan, who had an impatient face, the others appeared a little enthusiastic.

"Hey, Xiao Yan, I have eaten all of my stuff. You must help me refine some once we leave this place." Zi Yan ignored Su Qian as she leaped to Xiao Yan's side. She pulled his sleeves while swinging her pale-purple pony tail and muttered, "I hate coming to this tower the most."

"Yes." Xiao Yan slightly nodded his head. He clearly knew that Zi Yan's original form was a Magical Beast. Hence, she had somewhat of a mentality that rejected flames. The so-called 'Essence Heart Flame' did not have much of a refining impact on her anyway. After all, she had already advanced to the Dou Wang class. It was useless to pave the way again. However, it was better than having nothing. Being able to refine her body once again for free would more or less have some benefits for her. Therefore, Zi Yan was not opposed to it. Although she had a naive character, she was still able to clearly distinguish the benefits.

Su Qian coughed softly and stared at Zi Yan who was not concerned at all. He immediately turned his gaze helplessly toward Xiao Yan and the others as he spoke in a stern manner, "All of you should follow me all the way. Do not walk about on your own. You should not walk about

randomly once you reach the bottom few levels of the tower. Do not observe your surroundings no matter what kind of activity occurs. Otherwise, I will revoke your qualification. Do you understand?”

Everyone was somewhat stunned when they heard this, but they still nodded their heads.

Seeing that everyone had nodded their heads, Su Qian turned around and led the way at the front. The route he took was different from when they usually descended the tower. Instead, he entered the metal door Xiao Yan had broken into back when he first entered the tower.

Xiao Yan's heart instantly leaped as he watched Su Qian take this route. He clearly understood that in the darkness behind this metal door was an extremely large, deep hole. Moreover, the true 'Fallen Heart Flame' was concealed in this bottomless, dark-black hole!

Xiao Yan adopted an unusual emotion as he followed Su Qian and entered that metal door that was closely guarded. The faint dim light shot down from the wall, shining at the enormous space behind the metal door until it was quite obscure. Although the light was hazy, it did not hinder Xiao Yan as he looked at the large hole in the middle of this enormous space.

The other few people also curiously looked all around them. This place was somewhere that even Liu Qing and Lin Xiuya were entering for the first time.

The gazes that looked all around paused on that deep, black hole not long later. Although everyone's hearts were filled with curiosity, they did not dare to carelessly move out of line and go over to check it out when they recalled Su Qian's earlier instructions.

Xiao Yan's gaze intensely paused on that dark, deep hole. It was a long while later before he forcefully pulled his gaze back, His gaze was lowered slightly as he followed Su Qian in front of him.

The route that Su Qian led them along was merely at the edge of this spacious interior. Therefore, it was quite far from the middle. Even so, Xiao Yan and the others sensed a kind of extremely hot temperature.

They walked along the edge for a couple of minutes before Su Qian led everyone into a somewhat dim tunnel that slowly spiraled down. As Xiao Yan's footsteps followed the repeatedly winding stairs, he could sense that he and the others were heading deeper to the bottom levels of the 'Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower'.

The security in this tunnel stairway was extremely tight, and was enough to cause Xiao Yan and the rest to feel shocked. Almost every couple of minutes they descend the stairs, a guard who was standing like a statue would appear. Accompanied by the surrounding dim atmosphere, this kind of tight security caused a couple of people to secretly swallow their saliva. If they didn't have too much trust in the Inner Academy, it was likely that some of them would suspect Su Qian was bringing them to a dangerous place.

The group of people basically did not have the mood to converse in this kind of pressuring atmosphere. Other than Zi Yan's voice which was repeatedly muttering to Xiao Yan, the remaining people all had tense faces. The entire stairway only appeared to have a somewhat messy, heavy breathing sound.

This travel under such a pressuring atmosphere continued for nearly half an hour before it was finally broken by a light that appeared at the end of the dim tunnel.

"We have arrived!" Su Qian swiftly walked toward the end. His faint voice immediately caused everyone's spirit to be roused. Their footsteps became faster before eventually scrambling to swarm out of the tunnel.

Everyone's footsteps stepped out of the dim tunnel. The eye-piercingly intense light caused Xiao Yan and the others to habitually shut their eyes. However, they swiftly opened them. Their faces were immediately filled with surprise as they swept all around.

This was an extremely spacious and empty space within the tower that occupied a vast area. At a glance, this was basically more spacious than any other level above. As this place did not have many training rooms, it had an empty feeling when one took a glance at it.

Xiao Yan's gaze moved around. A moment later, it stopped at the area in the middle. There was a large hole that was approximately dozens of meters wide there. His gaze slowly shifted up and Xiao Yan's eyes immediately narrowed. There was a similarly enormous hole in the ceiling that was nearly a hundred meters high that was facing the deep hole below with great precision. Clearly... almost every level of this 'Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower' had such a hole and that these holes were connected to one another.

"Looks like in this deepest part should be the place where the 'Fallen Heart Flame' is located. It is just that I do not know which level this would be..." Xiao Yan muttered in his heart.

"All of you should follow me." Su Qian's gaze looked all around him. He immediately waved to Xiao Yan and the others before lifting his feet and walking over to the middle area. Xiao Yan's gaze brightened when he saw this and was the first to follow.

As he approached the black hole in the middle, Xiao Yan could clearly sense a strange temperature covering his entire body.

Su Qian was still over twenty meters from the deep hole when he paused his footsteps. He waved his hand and two figures immediately flashed and appeared from an unknown area before finally stopping around ten meters from the hole.

Xiao Yan's gaze eyed those two figures. These two people were clearly also the Elders of the Inner Academy. However, they did not frequently reveal themselves outside. Hence, even he had never seen them before.

"All of you, sit down!" Su Qian pointed at a spot on the ground. There were eleven specially made jade platforms there. At a glance, they were jade-green in color.

Xiao Yan and the ten others hurriedly followed his instruction after hearing his words. Each of them searched for a jade platform before sitting down.

Xiao Yan immediately felt a wave of faint coolness seeping into him the moment his buttocks touched the jade platform. As he sat at this spot, it

appeared that even the hot temperature of the outside world was isolated.

Su Qian finally turned his body after seeing everyone sitting on the jade platforms. He spoke a couple of words to the two Elders in a soft voice. After which, the two Elders slowly walked closer to that deep hole. Their hands formed a couple of seals in a lightning-like manner before letting out a soft, deep cry.

As the cry of the two people fell, the empty surroundings of that deep hole suddenly began to fluctuate. Following which, a layer of somewhat illusory energy ripples slowly surfaced in everyone's sight.

"So this place also has a special energy seal. Looks like this Inner Academy has an extremely tight defense against the 'Fallen Heart Flame'." Xiao Yan's spoke with a sudden understanding in his heart as he watched that seemingly illusory, yet extremely firm energy ripple.

The two Elders beckoned with their hands following the surfacing of the energy ripple cover. Immediately, a white-colored light that was the size of a human head slowly drifted out from the deep hole. Finally, it seeped through the energy ripple before being suspended at a spot around two meters from the ground as it floated up and down.

Other lights came drifting out one after another not long after the first pale-white light drifted out. A moment later there were a total of eleven light clusters appearing in front of Xiao Yan and the others.

Everyone blinked their eyes and studied the chicken-egg-like white-colored lights with doubtful expressions.

Su Qian smiled faintly as he saw the loss on everyone's faces. He waved his sleeves gently. Immediately, the color of those white-colored light swiftly became transparent. Finally, it revealed the thing within it in front of everyone.

As the color paled, the thing that appeared within the light was, surprisingly, what seemed like an invisible flame that could still be seen by the naked eye. These flames curled and rose within each of their own light clusters. However, all of the temperature appeared to have been completely isolated by the light. Therefore, Xiao Yan and the others were

actually unable to sense even the slightest heat.

“This is the ‘Essence Heart Flame’.” Su Qian stared at this invisible flame as he spoke faintly, “This kind of ‘Essence Heart Flame’ is extremely difficult to obtain. Every year, we exhaust a great amount of human effort in order to obtain three to four clusters. Moreover, this also depends on one’s luck... This thing does not have much use for those of the Dou Wang class and above. However, it is able to pave the way for someone below the Dou Wang class to advance to a Dou Wang. Of course, there is also quite a great amount of risk. The pain of refining one’s body is extremely difficult to endure. If one is not careful, not only will one fail, but the flame will also cause significant damage to one’s body.

“First Elder, this refining of one’s body with the ‘Essence Heart Flame’... what is the... success rate of previous years?” Lin Yan raised his hand and carefully inquired.

“The failure rate of each batch of top ten of the ‘Strong Ranking’ who come here to receive the body refinement is quite high. Each time around, around half the people fail.” Su Qian mentioned casually. However, cold sweat began to appear on the forehead of some people. A fifty-percent chance of failure... this seemed to be a little high, no?

“The Dou Wang class is the defining line of the experts on the continent. All of you who are at the peak of the Dou Ling class should be clearly aware of just how difficult it is to advance to this class. If one does not have sufficient luck, it is possible for one to pause at this level forever.” Su Qian glanced at Lin Xiuya, Liu Qing and the others as he spoke.

“You can tell me if you don’t dare receive the refinement of your body. This ‘Essence Heart Flame’ is extremely rare and precious. It would naturally be good if we can save it.” Su Qian carelessly spoke.

Everyone faced one another upon hearing this. However, no one dared to say anything about withdrawing. It was just as Su Qian had said, advancing to the Dou Wang class was far too difficult. If one were to give up on having such a chance, a future with regret would be...

“Since no one has any dissenting opinions, all of you should close your



eyes and sink your mind into your body. Don't get distracted. We will intervene if any problem occurs." Su Qian waved his hand when he saw that no one spoke. The eleven light clusters flew toward the foreheads of everyone. Finally, they emitted a 'bang' and broke apart in front of everyone's eyes, which were staring intently at them. The invisible flame within it fell and entered into everyone... from the tops of everyone's heads...

# Chapter 587: The Pain of Refining One's Body

As the clusters of invisible flame entered into the forehead of Xiao Yan and the others, the bodies of the eleven of them immediately began to tremble via a varying degree. Soon after, their faces began to flush red to the degree of burning coal. There were even threads of white fog seeping out from everyone's head.

Su Qian nodded slightly as he saw the flushed red faces of the eleven of them. He instructed the two Elders. "Watch them carefully. Don't let any accidents occur."

The two Elders bowed and received the orders. A gray-robed Elder among them sighed, "I wonder how many people will be able to successfully endure this time around?"

"This kind of refinement of one's body with the 'Heart Flame' is far from those 'Heart Flames' used to train with in the upper few levels can compare with. This kind of searing pain is something that even someone with great mental strength may not have absolute confidence in being able to endure through it all." Su Qian spoke faintly.

The other Elder smiled bitterly and nodded. He said, "There were only four among the last batch of top ten in the 'Strong Ranking' who managed to endure through it. The remaining six failed and even ended up receiving serious internal injuries. They had to recuperate for a full two to three months before they completely recovered. Although the benefit of this refinement of one's body with the 'Heart Flame' is sufficient to cause one to be envious, it is not that easy to enjoy it."

"Let's see their own luck. It is nothing much if they fail, but if the 'Heart Flame' successfully refines their body, it can allow them to have a slightly easier time advancing to a Dou Wang in the future. Even though it cannot achieve the result of directly raising their strength to a Dou Wang, most of those who can enter the top ten of the 'Strong Ranking' are those with excellent talent. As long as it is not someone with extremely terrible luck,

they would definitely have the chance to advance to the Dou Wang class after exhausting five or ten years.” Su Qian carelessly spoke. His gaze immediately turned toward the enormous, deep hole behind him and frowned slightly as he spoke, “How is the ‘Fallen Heart Flame’ recently? Is there any activity?”

Hearing Su Qian’s question, the earlier gray-robed Elder hurriedly spoke, “The ‘Fallen Heart Flame’ is unusually quiet during this period of time. It even reached the point where not the slightest activity has appeared. If it were not because we were surveying traces of its activity, it is likely that we would have thought that it had just quietly fled.”

“No activity?” Su Qian was not only not happy when he heard this, but his face had also gradually become solemn. During all these many years, the ‘Fallen Heart Flame’ had been constantly trying to break the seal. How was it possible that it was suddenly void of activity? As the saying goes, ‘an abnormality is usually the result of a demon’. Was the ‘Fallen Heart Flame’ brewing something?

Su Qian’s expression become increasingly serious as this thought lingered in his heart. A moment later, he asked in a deep voice, “How is the seal?”

“We have summoned all the Elders within the Inner Academy, gathering together eighteen people and spending five days to completely repair all the seals that had begun to collapse from the attacks of the past.” The other Elder eyed Su Qian’s serious expression and smiled as he continued. “First Elder need not be too worried. Even if the first layer of the seal was unluckily broken, there is still the seal that the Headmaster personally put in place at the surface of this ‘Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower’. It is quite difficult for this ‘Fallen Heart Flame’ to break through it.”

Su Qian knit his brows and reprimanded, “Don’t underestimate this ‘Fallen Heart Flame’. A ‘Heavenly Flame’ is agglomerated from the most destructive natural strength over an extremely long time. Its strength could be said to be frightening. Should any mishap happen, this entire Inner Academy would be instantly destroyed. Such a price is something that our Jia Nan Academy cannot afford.”

That Elder was somewhat ashamed at being reprimanded by Su Qian.

“Assign more people to pay attention to the ‘Fallen Heart Flame’. Release the signal the moment there is any activity. I have already informed the Outer Academy. There will be people swiftly hurrying over the moment that something goes wrong with the ‘Fallen Heart Flame’.” Su Qian spoke in a deep voice.

“Yes sir!” The two Elders hurriedly responded respectfully the moment they heard this.

“Additionally, you should pay more attention to these little fellows. Don’t let anything happen. I will go to the lowest level below to investigate the situation.” Su Qian’s body moved as his words sounded. He immediately disappeared from this spot in a strange manner, leaving behind the two Elders who were looking at one another.

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Pain. A pain that seeped out from deep within his bones!

This was what Xiao Yan was currently feeling. After that invisible flame invaded his body, it was as though his entire body was thrown into a fire cauldron. Moreover, this flame was burning his body from within. The raging fire, the hot temperature, the momentum... it seemed to be refusing to give up until it incinerated his body into ashes.

White fog seeped out from his head. The Qi Paths, bones, and even blood within Xiao Yan’s body appeared to have become invisible at this moment. The invisible flame seeped out from all over his body much like maggots in tarsal bones and began to incinerate anything that could be burned within his body. The Dou Qi that was hidden within the Dou Crystal was also unable to avoid this calamity. Although Xiao Yan could not see within the Dou Crystal of his body, he was able to sense that the Dou Qi within it was like floodwater that churned repeatedly...

Under this deep bone-searing pain, each second of each minute felt like it took days or even years. Although Xiao Yan had the impulse of fainting on the spot, he was able to sense that his organs appeared to be gradually becoming stronger under the incineration of the invisible flame. This also

repeatedly increased the intensity of the pain. Such a body refinement was just like a kind of torture.

After these two years of training and experience, Xiao Yan had confidence in his determination and toughness. Moreover, he was also a little adapted to the 'Heavenly Flame' because he had already successfully refined the 'Green Lotus Core Flame'. Even though this was the case, he was also made this miserable because of the refinement of the 'Heart Flame'. It was difficult to imagine just what kind of frightening degree the searing pain was to those people who had not adapted to it.

Endure. This was the word that was repeated in Xiao Yan's heart as he clenched his teeth. At this moment, he could only use this self-hypnotizing method to cause himself to endure for a longer time.

The torment passed by extremely slowly. However, Xiao Yan gradually became numb as this kind of intense pain continued. After his heart became a little less focused on the pain, he was finally able to divide his attention to sense the many slight changes that his body was undergoing under the calcination of the 'Essence Heart Flame'...

The slightly superficial Dou Qi due to his strength having soared abruptly by two stars some time earlier, was gradually becoming substantial at an extremely joyous speed under this kind of calcination of the 'Heart Flame'. Xiao Yan was able to sense that the superficial feeling in the Dou Crystal when he maneuvered his Dou Qi in the past was swiftly disappearing. The Dou Crystal once again recovered to the kind of substantial feeling of the past.

His bones, Qi Paths, and even muscles were just like metal under the intense flame as they were being refined at an extremely slow pace until they became tougher and filled with explosive strength...

Due to various reasons, Xiao Yan luckily endured past the most painful period. However, some of the others were not so lucky. Around an hour or so after the 'Essence Heart Flame' entered their bodies, a student became the first to show abnormal signs. His originally flush red expression instantly became pale-white and his body trembled swiftly like he was

having a seizure.

Those two Elders who had been paying attention to Xiao Yan and the others naturally discovered the unusual action of this student at the first instance. Their expressions immediately changed a little. With a flash of their bodies, they appeared beside the latter. Those shriveled hands were extended at the same time before they gently landed on the back of that student. Powerful Dou Qi suddenly surged into the latter's body from their palms.

As the Dou Qi surged out, the student's body trembled even more intensely. Finally, a flushed redness surged onto his pale face that was as white as sheet. A fresh mouthful of bright-red blood was involuntarily spat out.

The fresh blood landed on the ground and immediately let out a 'chi chi' sound. A wave of white smoke rose before finally leaving behind a shallow bright red mark on the ground.

That student also slowly opened his eyes after that fresh blood was spat out. He appeared to clearly understand that he had failed and his eyes were filled with dejection and helplessness.

"You should rest by the side first. Failure is something frequent when the 'Heart Flame' refines one's body. You need not be too concerned over it." The gray-robed man eyed the dejected expression of the student and comforted him. However, his voice had just sounded when another student's body swiftly convulsed. The two Elders could only bitterly smile and flashed to that person's side. They repeated their actions and forced the 'Heart Flame' out from within that student's body.

The failure of the first two people appeared to have caused a chain effect. Within a short hour, there were another three people who failed, causing the two Elders to be awfully busy.

After they finished dealing with the final student who had a problem, the two Elders looked at the six people that still remained. The Elders appeared to have laid down a heavy burden as they sighed when they saw that the aura of these people were still stable despite their faces being

flushed red. These six people had clearly endured past the most dangerous period. As long as nothing seriously wrong happened after this, they should be able to be successful.

“Looks like there will be a few more people who succeed this time around compared to the last batch.” An Elder wiped his perspiration as he smiled and spoke.

The other Elder nodded. His gaze looked toward the five people who were somewhat dispirited due to their failure and helplessly shook their heads. He got up and said, “Take care of these people first. I will send them out of the tower.” As he said this, he turned toward the five people, waved his hand, and led them back up the route they had taken to arrive here.

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The refinement of one’s body by the ‘Essence Heart Flame’ was something that exhausted quite a lot of time. Although Xiao Yan and the five others had endured past the most difficult period, they were receiving the calcination of the ‘Heart Flame’ during the subsequent three days. During this calcination, they were able to clearly sense that the interior of their body, regardless of whether it was their Qi Paths, bones, etc., were greatly strengthened.

On the third day, the refinement of their bodies by the ‘Heart Flame’ gradually approached its end. The flush redness on their faces was gradually withdrawn. Waves of auras of varying strength soared from within their bodies. Although this aura did not differ much in strength compared to before their bodies were refined, their aura was clearly much more substantial compared to a couple of days earlier...

However, just as everyone was about to finish successfully, the expression of Su Qian, who had been monitoring the activity of the ‘Fallen Heart Flame’ at the lowest level of the ‘Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower’ suddenly changed drastically.

# Chapter 588: Fallen Heart Flame, Erupt!

At the lowest level of the 'Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower', there was a scene that was completely different from the top levels. The hot temperature that was rising within the enormous space even caused one's vision to become hazy. When one gently inhaled a breath into one's body, one immediately felt like one was inhaling a breath of flames.

A fiery-red light had seeped out from an unknown source and lit up the entire space until it became quite bright. The middle area of this space also had an extremely spacious deep hole. The entrance of this deep hole was bigger than any of the upper levels. Its interior was also not black in color, but filled with a kind of dark-pale-redness like that of coagulated blood.

An energy barrier that was visible to the naked eye formed a circular pillar and firmly locked the place just outside of the deep hole. The surface of the energy barrier was filled with somewhat mysterious varying lines. They were like snakes passing by, leaving behind various winding dents. Additionally, the energy barrier at this spot was extremely wild and violent. Threads of powerful energy ripples spread out repeatedly. There was even an extremely deep explosive sound.

Su Qian sat cross-legged not far from the energy barrier. His eyes appeared to be partially closed. Borrowing his enormous Dou Qi, his will had wrapped around the entire lowest level of the 'Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower'. Any slight ripple would not be able to escape his senses.

The faint sound of liquid flowing suddenly sounded in the quiet bottom level. That sound was like lake water churning. However, just this slight sound caused Su Qian's solemn expression to change drastically. His eyes were abruptly opened and two eyes that were like sharp glows directly shot toward the deep hole in the middle. The sound was being emitted from there.

Su Qian stood up in a lightning-like manner. His body moved, and the next time that he appeared, he was already by the edge of the deep hole.



His eyes were aglow like that of lightning, as his gaze shot toward the interior of the deep hole. However, the flowing liquid sound that had suddenly sounded earlier appeared to have completely disappeared a moment later.

Su Qian frowned slightly. He hesitated for a moment before both his hands slowly touched that layer of extremely wild, violent energy barrier in front of him.

The wild, violent energy that was sufficient to easily convulse any elite Dou Wang until he was injured appeared to have become a pet that had seen its owner in Su Qian's hand and swiftly quieted down. As the former's hands slowly parted, that circular energy barrier was also divided into a tunnel that allowed a person to pass.

Su Qian's body flashed and instantly squeezed into the energy barrier. His feet firmly stood on the edge of that deep hole. Immediately, an extremely great heat pounced at him from in front of him. Even Su Qian's strength did not dare to underestimate this kind of high temperature. As his sleeves were waved, a powerful Dou Qi wrapped around his body, isolating that extremely hot heat.

Only after performing these protections did Su Qian's gaze shoot into the deep hole. A faint fluorescent light gradually covered his eyes. Under this fluorescent light, the deep regions of that bottomless hole finally revealed a little bit of another scene. There was a sea of magma. However, the color of the magma here appeared exceptionally dark-red compared to ordinary magma. It was as though it was mixed with countless amounts of fresh blood. Its entirety was filled with a strange color.

The solemnness on Su Qian's face increased as he eyed the corner of the magma world that extended into the ground with an unknown depth. Although he clearly knew that the original body of the 'Fallen Heart Flame' was hidden within it, he did not dare to easily charge into this kind of extremely harsh environment even with his strength. Moreover, there was also the 'Fallen Heart Flame' which possessed some intelligence hidden within it watching him menacingly.

Borrowing the increase in his eyesight, Su Qian was able to vaguely see a corner of this magma world. Even with his strength, the dark-redness that filled his eyes caused his heart to feel irritation after watching for a long time. He clearly understood that this was trouble created by the 'Fallen Heart Flame'. This kind of flame that formed from people's hearts was the most unusual.

"Why is there no activity?" The magma world was still as calm as it was in the past. There was not the slightest sign of any unusual movement. However, before this, Su Qian had clearly sensed the flow of extremely large energy. In this deep area underground without any other living beings, what else other than the 'Fallen Heart Flame' would be able to possess such a large amount of energy that caused even him to feel shock?

Su Qian knit his brows tightly. With his strength he naturally knew that it was impossible for him to have sensed wrongly. Yet, now...

"Bang!"

A slight sound suddenly and quietly sounded from within the magma world. Immediately, it passed through the deep hole of unknown height and was transmitted into Su Qian's ear.

This slight sound was just like that of a heartbeat, causing the heart of the person who heard it to involuntarily beat with it.

Su Qian's eyes instantly shrank to the size of pinholes. He was able to reaffirm that the magma world under him was definitely preparing for an event that was imminent. That strange sound from earlier was definitely somewhat off-putting!

However, even though he knew that something was about to happen in the underground area beneath him, Su Qian still did not dare to enter it. After all, should anything happen to him, it was likely that this Inner Academy would descend into catastrophe once the 'Fallen Heart Flame' suddenly erupted again.

"Bang!"

Just as Su Qian was deep in thought, another low and deep sound

suddenly appeared. Additionally, this sound was even clearer and louder than before. That manner... appeared to be as though there was something about to break out of its cocoon and appear.

The fist in Su Qian's sleeves slowly tightened. His expression was dark and volatile. Under the reflection of the dark-red light, it appeared somewhat dark and solemn.

"Bang!" Another sound that appeared like that of a heartbeat once again sounded. This time around, it was even stronger than the previous one.

"Bang!" Another one sounded five minutes after that previous one. After which... another one in three minutes...

As time flowed by, the frequency of that somewhat strange sound beating became increasingly rapid. In the end, Su Qian was somewhat shocked to discover that the sound was actually completely in rhythm with the sound of his own heartbeat!

"Just what exactly has happened..." Su Qian muttered softly in his mouth. His expression suddenly changed drastically as his gaze eyed that underground magma world with shock. An extremely wild and violent majestic energy was slowly surging from the bottom of the magma from that spot. Moreover, as this wild, violent energy surged, the calmness of that magma world was suddenly broken. A wild wind from an unknown source began billowing above the magma, bringing that magma as it roiled and rose, forming a hundred foot large fire-colored wave that immediately smashed heavily down. That instantaneous 'bang' was just like mountains-collapsing and the land-splitting!

"This energy..." A green color surfaced on Su Qian's face as he sensed that familiar energy that had suddenly surged. After so many years of exchanges, he was naturally extremely familiar with this energy. This was something that belonged to the 'Fallen Heart Flame'!

"What has this thing done? Why has its energy suddenly changed and become a couple of times more powerful than in the past?" Su Qian's expression was shocked as he muttered.

"The energy has become so much stronger... then... this seal's effect..."

Su Qian suddenly recalled something extremely important. His heart instantly became cold. Just as he was planning to immediately gather some people to reinforce the seal, a wave of loud rumbling bangs suddenly sounded from the bottom of that deep hole. The former's eyes looked down and immediately slowly inhaled a breath of cool air.

The dark-red magma in the endless magma world suddenly began to churn intensely. An extremely wild and violent energy spread within it.

As the magma churned, there appeared to be something that was about to break through the surface. A moment later, the rolling magma suddenly became calm. However, Su Qian's eyes did not relax just because of this. He clearly sensed that the wild, violent energy was coming increasingly closer to the surface...

“Puff!”

A great wave suddenly rose from the surface of the magma. As the magma flew, a fire python whose nearly transparent body broke through the magma. It was dozens of feet long and its entire body was covered with an invisible flame seeping out from it. Majestic energy that caused one to be shaken until they could not bear it appeared in the solemn gaze of Su Qian.

“Hiss!”

Having broken through the magma, the enormous transparent fire python, which was so huge that one could not see its end, lifted its enormous head as though it had been imprisoned for a thousand years. A sharp sonic wave that was sufficient to convulse an ordinary Dou Ling until he died on the spot was swiftly spread out.

As that sonic wave spread, a countless number of bombs appeared to have been thrown into the magma world. Low and deep explosive sounds repeatedly resonated. The magma shot out explosively and flames gushed out wildly in all directions.

After venting out in a near insane manner, that enormous transparent fire python appeared to have sensed the focus from the ground. It abruptly lifted its massive head. Those triangle pupils that contained an invisible

flame focused intently on Su Qian at the exit of the deep hole!

Su Qian immediately felt a chill in his body as he was locked on by that invisible flame. That manner was as though his entire body had been scanned from inside out by the other party.

The snake eyes locked onto Su Qian. A mere instant later, the being which had quite a great intelligence appeared to have recognized its old opponent. Immediately, a frightening energy fluctuation suddenly rose from its enormous body. The degree of its majesty, filled with wildness and violence, immediately caused even Su Qian to feel a chill in his heart.

“Hiss!”

Another wild, violent, sharp sonic wave erupted. The enormous body of that invisible fire python suddenly slammed on the magma. Immediately, that gigantic body that was nearly twenty to thirty feet long, carried a high temperature and extremely violent energy as it charged explosively toward the exit of that deep hole, much like invisible lightning!

“This is bad. That beast wants to attack the seal!” The action of the invisible fire python caused Su Qian’s expression to change. His toes pressed on the edge and his body withdrew outside of the energy barrier in a lightning-like manner. The seal on his hands moved abruptly and one could see the energy at the entrance of the deep hole suddenly surge. Finally, it formed a colorful energy barrier that firmly sealed the hole!

The instant the seal was moving in his hand, a thunder-like cry was suddenly emitted from Su Qian’s mouth. Finally, it mightily reverberated throughout the ‘Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower’ and the entire Inner Academy.

“All Elders, hurry immediately to the tower. All students must leave any area within a hundred meters from the ‘Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower!’”

Upon hearing this thunderbolt-like cry that resounded throughout the sky, the entire Inner Academy fell into a complete silence.

# Chapter 589: Breaching the Seal!

The colorful energy barrier was like a cover with a beautiful hue, sealing the deep hole in an extremely firm manner. The moment the energy barrier took shape, the surrounding space immediately began to form waves of ripples. Clearly, the energy contained within this energy barrier, which appeared to have been carelessly agglomerated, was extremely powerful.

This kind of extremely powerful energy barrier was a seal that the Inner Academy had already set up a long time ago. Any Elder was able to activate it during a critical moment. Its purpose was to guard against the sudden eruption of the 'Fallen Heart Flame'.

Although the energy barrier was powerful, its body appeared to be like the surface of a lake where a giant rock had been thrown in. A wave of extremely great heat approached in the blink of an eye. Waves of extremely rapid fluctuation were stirring.

“Bang!”

The enormous blood-red magma suddenly erupted out from the endless underground before carrying a strength that could move mountains and flip seas as it violently struck at that colorful energy barrier. Immediately, a muffled sound reverberated over the entire bottom level of the tower. The instant that the sound rang out, numerous tiny crack lines suddenly began to snake across the energy barrier under Su Qian's changed expression. Finally, it burst apart under a clear sound!

After accumulating over a long period of time, the degree of intensity of the eruption of the 'Fallen Heart Flame' this time around was wilder and fiercer than any previous time. Hence, the energy barrier which had an extremely powerful defensive strength only endured for a moment under the initial collision of the two of them before it completely broke apart.

As the saying goes, the first drum boosts courage, the second lowers morale, and the third exhausts courage. The 'Fallen Heart Flame' had prepared well this time around. The wild, violent energy that it had

displayed was something that caused even Su Qian to harbor fear in his heart.

Following the energy cover bursting apart, a blood-colored magma pillar that was dozens of meters long immediately erupted from that deep hole like the eruption of a volcano!

Just before the blood-colored magma pillar erupted, the wild, violent circular pillar energy barrier once again surfaced by the edge of the deep hole, blocking the magma that was intent on spitting in all directions.

“Hah! Seal!”

Although there was some change in Su Qian’s expression when the first seal was broken in the blink of an eye, he did not appear to be overly alarmed. The seals in his hands were repeatedly formed, and a low cry was once again emitted from his mouth.

As the cry sounded, a wave of energy fluctuation instantly rose at the exit hole located on the ceiling that was dozens of meters above. Immediately, another powerful multicolored energy barrier was instantly formed.

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Xiao Yan and the others had just woken up from the refinement of their bodies by the ‘Heart Flame’ at the eighth level of the ‘Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower’ when they heard Su Qian’s rolling thunder-like cry that reverberated by their ears. They were immediately startled. A moment later, the eyes of Xiao Yan, who appeared to have understood something, immediately revealed an excited expression. He knew that it was likely that only the ‘Fallen Heart Flame’ would cause Su Qian to be this solemn...

The two Elders who had been taking care of Xiao Yan and the others also heard Su Qian’s cry. Their expressions immediately changed drastically. They exchanged looks with one another and saw shock in each other’s eyes.

“All of you should leave the tower quickly. Do not stay here!” The gray-robed Elder from earlier turned his head around and spoke to Lin Yan and

the others who had expressions indicating they were at a loss.

Lin Yan and the others looked at one another but did not delay any longer. The current situation clearly indicated that there was an extremely great problem that had occurred within the tower.

The few of them stood up. After which, they hurriedly turned around and swiftly walked toward the route that they took to arrive.

Xiao Yan mused for a moment before looking at that deep hole in the middle without leaving a trace. With the help of the 'Green Lotus Core Flame', he was able to clearly sense an extremely hot temperature that was being agglomerated underneath from that deep hole. Moreover, an energy ripple that was shockingly wild and violent was also rising swiftly.

"Xiao Yan, hurry and leave this place!" An Elder once again pressed Xiao Yan when the former saw the latter lagging behind.

Xiao Yan nodded slightly. He did not say anything as he pulled the curious Zi Yan by his side and swiftly caught up with Lin Xiuya and the others. After which, the group entered the tunnel through which they arrived under the gaze of the two Elders.

Only after seeing Xiao Yan and the others leave did these two Elders sigh in relief. They exchanged gazes with one another before they bodies flashed hurriedly. Finally, they swiftly disappeared from the empty interior of the tower.

Xiao Yan's group hurriedly walked forward in the dimly lit tunnel. Perhaps it was because they did not have Su Qian leading the way just like when they came, but the atmosphere was much livelier than when they came.

"Hey, Xiao Yan, do you know what has happened in the tower?" Lin Yan's expression was filled with mystery as he moved to Xiao Yan's side and asked with a laugh.

Xiao Yan was startled when he heard this. He immediately smiled and shook his head.

Lin Yan was somewhat proud when he saw Xiao Yan shake his head. He



was just about to reveal some secret when Zi Yan by the side curled her lips with disdain. Her tender voice reverberated in the tunnel, “Isn’t it merely the uprising of the flame underneath the tower. It is not as though this is the first time that such a thing has happened during these past few years.”

Surprise flashed across Xiao Yan’s eyes when he heard these words of Zi Yan. She actually knew about the flame sealed underneath the tower?

Lin Yan smiled in an embarrassed manner. Immediately, he frowned at Xiao Yan, “However, it seems to be a little different this time around. Although the tower would have some energy eruptions in previous years, I have never seen the First Elder sound this solemn.”

“The energy in the tower has indeed become a lot more violent. I was unable to clearly sense it in the past. However, after the ‘Heart Flame’ refined my body, this kind of feeling is becoming increasingly clear.” Lin Xiuya at the front suddenly turned his head around and spoke with knit brows.

Lin Xiuya’s words stimulated some echos by others. They had indeed felt that their senses to natural energy had become sharper after their bodies had been refined by the ‘Heart Flame’. Clearly, this should be some of the benefits of one’s body being refined by the ‘Heart Flame’.

“Forget about it. It is not up to us to intervene in this manner. Everything should be fine with the strength of the First Elder and the other Elders.” Xiao Yan laughed softly as he spoke.

If it was Xiao Yan’s old strength and status, these most outstanding people within the Inner Academy would definitely not be too bothered with what he said. However, things were different now. It was likely that no one among those present would neglect any word he spoke. Hence, everyone smiled and nodded when they heard his words, and did not get entangled further on this topic. They increased the pace of their footsteps and quickly headed to the top of the tower.

After over ten minutes of hurrying, Xiao Yan’s group finally walked out of the meandering dim tunnel, and climbed into the spacious area on the

first level of the 'Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower'.

As his footstep climbed the final flight of stairs, Xiao Yan's gaze instantly turned to that enormous deep hole at the middle. However, his gaze had just drifted over when his expression changed a little. This was because he discovered that the originally dark-black interior of the deep hole now had a kind of faint blood-red color emerging from within it. Moreover, there was an enormous pillar shaped energy barrier at the edge of the deep hole, appearing just like a water curtain as it firmly wrapped around the deep hole.

Xiao Yan's gaze followed the circular pillar shaped energy barrier and moved up. He discovered that this energy barrier was actually connected directly to the dark-black tip of the 'Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower...

Xiao Yan's mind recalled the energy barrier that he had seen in the level below. He suddenly came to a sudden understanding. These holes were facing each other from a distance and the surrounding energy barrier was an axis that connected all of these deep holes together. With the protection of these energy barriers, even if the 'Fallen Heart Flame' erupted, it could only follow the energy barrier and charge to the peak of the tower and would not cause much damage to the interior of the tower. If it was to charge to the top of the tower... Xiao Yan recalled the first time he had seen the 'Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower' where he had sensed that the exterior of the dark-black tower had a layer with an extremely powerful seal. It was likely that the 'Fallen Heart Flame' would exhaust quite a great amount of energy in order to break through that seal layer.

The energy barrier that had appeared in the spacious center of the tower had similarly attracted the attention of Lin Xiuya and the others. Their expressions were immediately a little stunned. They exchanged glances with one another, each feeling somewhat doubtful.

"Cough. Forget it, let's leave. This should be taken care of by the Inner Academy's Elders. Let's not be meddlesome. The result would not be too good should any accident occur." Lin Xiuya eyed the blooming red light from the deep hole, and felt a faint uneasiness in his heart. Hence, he quickly hastened everyone.

The other few people also shared the same feeling upon hearing him press them on. After their bodies were refined by the 'Heart Flame', they appeared to have a kind of extremely faint sense for some dangerous things.

Although Xiao Yan was a little unwilling when he heard that everyone wanted to leave, he could not show any actions that were too independent and special. He immediately nodded his head. However, just as everyone had pressed against the edge and walked for a few dozens steps, a liquid surged. A loud crashing sound like that of a falling waterfall suddenly sounded.

The expressions of Xiao Yan and the others were startled under this strange loud sound. Their gazes immediately followed the sound and moved before finally facing that deep hole that contained a blood-red glow.

"What is happening?" A person quietly swallowed a mouthful of saliva and spoke carefully. Under this kind of environment, such a strange crashing sound was able to cause one's heart to become afraid.

Xiao Yan's gaze stared intently at the entrance of that deep hole. He was able to clearly sense an extremely majestic, wild, violent energy was swiftly approaching.

Zi Yan by the side appeared to have also sensed the terror of that wild and violent energy. Her small faced changed slightly, and her little hand tightly grabbed onto Xiao Yan's sleeves.

"Bang!"

Just as everyone was feeling extremely nervous, a layer of colorful energy barrier seemed to have suddenly appeared at the entrance of the hole. However, the energy barrier had just appeared when a blood-red heat surged up in a lightning-like manner. Finally, the heat was accompanied by a furious roar as it collided with a bang to the barrier!

The extremely firm colorful energy barrier was merely able to endure for less than one minute under the increasingly frightening wild and violent energy before it burst apart!

As the energy barrier burst apart, a blood-colored magma pillar that was dozens of meters large immediately came surging out explosively in all directions from under the deep hole. Finally, it moved along the surrounding energy barrier and violently collided against the top of the tower under the shocked gazes of Xiao Yan and the others.

# Chapter 590: Breaking Through the Tower!

Under the shocked gazes of everyone, the blood-colored magma pillar carried a hot magma flow as it charged through the final seal from every direction. Immediately, it collided violently against the tip of the 'Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower'.

"Bang!"

The low, deep, furious thunder-like explosion suddenly rumbled beside everyone's ears. During this meteorite-like collision, Xiao Yan clearly sensed that the entire 'Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower' had shaken violently.

Everyone's expression was a little pale as they watched the fiery hot magma that was erupting from that deep hole. Even though they were isolated by an energy barrier, they could still faintly sense its high temperature.

The blood-colored magma pillar collided heavily with the tip of the 'Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower'. However, the magma did not shake the latter until it broke because of its ferocious forward momentum. The instant they collided, a layer of a somewhat dark, thin energy barrier immediately surfaced at the dark-black tip of the tower. This energy barrier that was not even as thick as one's finger may have appeared to be thin and weak, but this thin layer of dark-black energy managed to completely stop that incomparably ferocious magma pillar!

The attack failed and a countless number of rock fragments shot out explosively from the magma. Finally, they shot toward those energy barriers by the side. They had just made contact when these rock fragments were shaken into powder by the wild and violent energy on the energy barrier.

However, the blood-colored magma pillar did not withdraw and disappear after it failed. It merely descended a couple of dozens of meters.

There were hot waves that were repeatedly rolling over the blood-colored magma. A moment later, the waves suddenly expanded greatly. An enormous transparent fire python that caused Xiao Yan's group to be stunned slowly appeared in the fire wave as it extended a head that appeared ferocious because of its immense size.

"This... what is this thing?" Even with the mental strength of Lin Xiuya and the others, they involuntarily cried out in a shock voice as they watched the invisible fire python that merely revealed an enormous head and a length of its body.

Xiao Yan's gaze stared intently at the invisible fire python that was rolling within the magma. His throat rolled slightly. This was the first time that he had seen the enormous snake at such close proximity. Moreover, he also sensed something. The invisible fire python that was within the magma pillar should be the mysterious being that was hidden at the bottom of the deep hole which he had seen the first time he entered the 'Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower'... the actual body of the 'Fallen Heart Flame'.

"It is really unexpected that the 'Fallen Heart Flame' has already evolved to this state. At this moment, this thing is basically a little different than an ordinary Mystical Beast." Yao Lao's surprised voice suddenly sounded at this moment. From the looks of it, the shock that this invisible fire python gave him was quite big.

Xiao Yan nodded his head in shock within his heart. After undergoing the accumulation and agglomeration over countless number of years, it had actually evolved from a cluster of invisible flame into this current beast. The mystery of nature did indeed cause one to feel amazed.

"Teacher, what do we do now? This thing is actually so terrifying. We... do we capture it?" Xiao Yan anxiously asked in his heart.

"Directly capture it? If I were in my heyday, we could give it a try. Now... it is best that we quietly wait for action to be taken by the Inner Academy." Yao Lao mocked Xiao Yan's question as he spoke.

Xiao Yan let out an embarrassed smile and nodded.

The fire python extended its enormous head out from the magma pillar. Having appeared to have sensed a couple of little fellows that were just like ants not far away, the triangle pupils that contained a white color glanced slightly at where the latter was. Under the focus of the pure-white triangular pupils, even Zi Yan took a small step back in fear despite her character, much less those other people who were frightened until their faces were white.

The invisible fire python was unconcerned about this group of people who were just like ants in its eyes. Hence, it merely randomly glanced once before withdrawing its gaze. It raised its head and stared intently at the tip of the tower that was as black as ink. A circular cord-like black-colored energy was slowly lingering at that spot. The seemingly thin and weak defense possessed an extremely frightening defensive strength.

“Hiss!”

Suddenly, the invisible python emitted an extremely sharp hissing sound. An invisible sonic wave was suddenly spreading out. Immediately, it collided heavily with the energy barrier around it. Waves of intense ripples rose on the energy barrier.

Xiao Yan could not resist swallowing his saliva as he watched the energy ripple that was swiftly fluctuating. Just a random hiss of this thing had a destructive strength that was stronger than his ‘Lion Tiger Gold Shattering Roar’ by a countless number of times.

The sharp hissing slowly weakened and the invisible fire python widened its enormous mouth. Immediately, an enormous invisible flame abruptly erupted from it!

The moment that invisible flame appeared, Xiao Yan and the others could still sense the temperature of this place suddenly soaring despite being isolated by the energy barrier. Immediately, everyone had no choice but to unleash their Dou Qi to wrap around their body. Only then did they feel somewhat better.

The invisible flame charged toward the layer of black energy film at the end of the energy barrier. Along the way, a varying degree of distortions

appeared in the space it passed through. At a glance it appeared like the folds on clothes.

Even the space was burned to the degree where it became distorted. If it was a person's body, it was likely that at that instant, it would be incinerated until even their ashes would not remain.

The speed at which the invisible flame was spat was not very fast. It took around thirty seconds or so before it carried its extremely frightening hot temperature and collided with the black energy layer.

The moment the two came into contact, it did not emit a loud sound like it did earlier. Instead, it appeared like ice on hot oil, continuously sizzling and emitting smoke.

Although the dark-black energy film was thin, its defensive strength was shockingly strong. Even after having that invisible flame glued to it, it was still as firm as it was in the past. When that invisible fire python saw this situation, it once again emitted a sharp hiss. Waves of flames repeatedly spat out as though they did not require any effort.

Although the black energy film was extremely strong, it was unable to endure for long under this kind of continuous incineration. Hence, as time flowed by, the layer of dark-black energy became increasingly thinner and increasingly illusory under the focus of Xiao Yan's group...

Seeing the weakening of the dark-black energy film, the invisible fire python once again emitted a hissing sound. However, even Xiao Yan and the others could hear the joy within the hissing this time around. Immediately, the latter worked even harder to swiftly spit out that incomparably frightening invisible flame...

The burning that continued for a long time without stopping also caused the black energy film to become increasingly thinner and illusory. Around five minutes later, that energy film basically became so faint, that it was only partially visible. Clearly, it was about to reach the point of cracking apart...

"This 'Fallen Heart Flame' is indeed frightening. Even the seal of the 'Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower' is unable to trap it. Looks like it is only a



matter of time before it breaks the seal.” Xiao Yan involuntarily muttered in his heart as he watched the energy film that was about to disappear.

“All of you little brats, why are you still here?” Just as Xiao Yan and the others were watching the scene until they were stunned, over a dozen human figures suddenly flashed out from the tunnel. The person leading them was surprisingly Su Qian. He involuntarily cried out when he saw Xiao Yan and the others who were still standing in this place.

Only after hearing this cry did Xiao Yan and the others recover. Their gaze looked at the ten plus human figures that had rushed out. These people were clearly the Inner Academy’s Elders. The group of them nodded carefully and were planning to withdraw when they discovered that after his loud cry, Su Qian had swiftly shifted his gaze from them toward the increasingly illusory and thin black energy film which was being incinerated by the flame of the invisible fire python.

“This is bad. The seal of the ‘Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower’ is about to be broken. This thing is using some unknown method this time around and actually caused its own strength to soar.” Su Qian’s face was shocked at this moment despite his mental strength. His voice was even a little sharp.

“First Elder, what do we do now?” An Elder hurriedly inquired. All of them clearly knew just what kind of serious consequence would occur once the ‘Fallen Heart Flame’ broke through the seal.

Su Qian’s face was dark and volatile. A moment later, he suddenly waved his hand and spoke with a sharp voice, “All Elders, follow me at once. At this moment, the seal of the ‘Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower’ won’t be able to endure for much longer. We can only use the formation seal that the headmaster left behind back then. Let us see if we can seal it!”

Su Qian did not pause for even a moment after speaking. His body flashed and swiftly rushed toward the exterior of the ‘Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower’. When he was passing by the side of Xiao Yan’s group, he let out a stern cry, “Why are all of you still staying? Get as far as possible once you get out of the tower. Don’t allow anyone to come over!”

The necks of Xiao Yan's group shrank as they heard Su Qian's stern cry. They were just about to move when numerous figures rushed out from beside them in a lightning-like manner. Finally, these figures turned into numerous afterimages that rushed out of the 'Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower'.

Xiao Yan's group was shocked by the speed of these Elders. They too did not dare to stay in this place for long. They hurriedly charged toward the exterior of the tower.

Xiao Yan once again turned his head around and took a glance just as they were about to leave the tower. He immediately inhaled a breath of cool air as he saw the layer of black energy had already become incomparably faint under the fierce burning of the invisible flame.

"It looks like this 'Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower' can no longer imprison the 'Fallen Heart Flame'... next, it is up to the Elders. Hopefully, they will leave a chance for me." Xiao Yan muttered in his heart. He ceased staying in this place as he turned around and rushed out of the 'Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower'.

Eye-piercing sunlight came shattering down the moment they exited the tower, causing Xiao Yan to narrow his eyes. He lifted his gaze and looked in all directions, only to realize that the originally extremely crowded tower exterior had become totally empty. His gaze looked afar. Only then was he able to see some scattered human figures in the distance.

Xiao Yan's body rushed toward the small slope of a hill. He suddenly raised his head and was stunned to realize that there were nearly twenty human figures suspended in the sky. Various different colored Dou Qi wings were being flapped slightly causing the space to appear somewhat bright and colorful.

These human figures in the sky stood in a scattered manner. They appeared to be randomly standing, but there was faintly some unique traces. If one were to carefully observe them, one would be able to discover that in the middle of this group of people was surprisingly the 'Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower'!

Pale varying colored energy barriers were over the twenty figures. Threads of energy that one had difficulty seeing with the naked eye were quietly being extended.

Xiao Yan's heart thumped abruptly the instant the formation was formed in the sky. That 'Green Lotus Core Flame' which was flowing within the Qi Paths also emitted a somewhat hot temperature at this moment...

"It is about to be broken..." Xiao Yan muttered softly, having appeared to have sensed something.

An earth-shattering, mountain-splitting explosion suddenly reverberated through the sky just after his voice sounded. Immediately, that incomparably firm tip of the 'Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower' was suddenly blasted apart. The hot magma pillar suddenly gushed out under the many shocked gazes in the distance!

# Chapter 591: Thousand Layer Sealing Formation

The hot magma flow was like a fire pillar which erupted from the top of the 'Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower' in a straight manner. In that instant, the natural energy within the entire Inner Academy suddenly began to run rampant.

After breaking through the seal of the 'Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower', an excited sharp hiss was suddenly emitted from the magma flow in a lightning-like manner. Immediately, the magma came shattering down from all directions, and a ferocious flame would rise wherever it passed. Hence, in a short period of time, the area that was nearly a couple of dozens of meters around the 'Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower' transformed into a sea of flames.

While the magma spilled downward, an enormous invisible fire python that was hundreds of feet long immediately shot out explosively from within. It sensed the freedom that it had not experienced for a long time, and those enormous triangular eyes were filled with an extremely human-like wild joy.

Countless numbers of students were on some of the three tops over a hundred meters away from the 'Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower'. Their faces were filled with shock as they watched that enormous being charge out from the top of the 'Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower'. No one expected that the place that they had frequently trained in actually contained such a fierce thing.

"Where is Xiao Yan?" Lin Xiuya and the others who had just escaped from the tower were on the top of a roof before Lin Yan suddenly looked all around him and hurriedly asked.

"He's there." Zi Yan extended her little finger and pointed to an area in the sky around the 'Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower'. There was a black figure that was flapping a pair of purplish-black wings while floating in mid-air.

“That fellow. Didn’t the First Elder tell everyone to leave that place? Why is he still staying there where it is a problem that even the First Elder and the others cannot solve?” Lin Yan’s expression immediately changed as he hurriedly asked upon seeing this.

Zi Yan pulled her pale-purple pony tail. She had a tender voice, but she purposefully acted in an elderly manner, “It is not as though that fellow is a fool. Relax. He will definitely flee faster than a rabbit should something happen. He still needs to refine things for me. How can he die so easily?”

Lin Yan immediately felt at a loss when he heard this. He helplessly shook his head, and could only cease his attempt at a pointless reply. He turned his gaze toward the enormous being that had rushed out from the ‘Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower’, and a shock immediately surged on his face. He muttered, “What Magical Beast is this? It is actually this frightening...”

Lin Xiuya, Lin Yan, and the others shook their heads. With their knowledge, they were still unable to see the origin of the invisible fire python.

“This is not some Magical Beast... it... it... even I don’t know what it is.” Zi Yan shook her head as she bit the tip of her finger and thought for a moment only to end up laughing. Her original form was a Magical Beast. Thus, she was naturally able to sense that the invisible fire python did not have the aura of a Magical Beast. If one were to ask her to give a reason, it would be making things difficult for her little head which only thought about eating all day long.

Everyone shook their heads. This ‘Brute-Force Queen’ really did survive by only relying on her strength...

While everyone was conversing, Su Qian was watching this invisible fire python, that had broken through the ‘Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower,’ in sky above. His expression also changed slightly. Soon after, however, he let out a stern loud cry, “All Elders, listen up. Form the ‘Thousand Layers Seal Formation’!”

As Su Qian’s cry sounded, the eighteen Elders that were suspended in

the sky immediately let out a response in unison. Immediately, eighteen powerful Dou Qis surged out explosively before intertwining with one another in a lightning-like manner. As they intertwined, countless numbers of somewhat tiny energies were reflected just like light. These energies intertwined with one another and a moment later, they formed an extremely dense energy web in the sky.

This colorful energy web repeatedly reflected. Hence, it was basically covered layer after layer. That manner was as though thousands of layers were superimposed on each other, and they all possessed an extremely shocking defensive strength.

Xiao Yan's expression was solemn as he eyed the colorful energy web that had formed in the sky. Su Qian's hand swiftly formed some seals. Immediately, his finger pointed toward the middle of the energy web. An enormous amount of energy surged out before pouring into it!

Having received the support of this enormous energy, Su Qian pulled his hand back once more, and the energy web that was nearly a hundred meters wide suddenly shot down from the edge, forming a layer of a colorful energy barrier. As this energy barrier fell, an extremely firm defensive web once again intercepted the head of the 'Fallen Heart Flame'.

Due to it having exhausted too much energy when breaking through the 'Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower' earlier, the flame on the body of the invisible fire python temporarily appeared somewhat dim for a short period after it had charged out of the tower. It was quite a long while after the 'Thousand Layers Seal Formation' was formed in the sky before the fierce flames once again rose from the large body of the fire python.

The wild, violent energy within the invisible fire python appeared to have once again recovered greatly following the rise of the flame. It slowly lifted its enormous head, and it fiercely glared at the colorful energy web in the sky. Having already tasted the sweet taste of freedom, it was naturally unwilling to return to that world filled with magma and fire poison.

"Hiss!"

It hissed toward the sky. That sharp sonic wave appeared substance-like as it swiftly spread out. Finally, it shook the surrounding vertical energy walls, carrying waves of swiftly shaking ripples.

Due to the energy web enveloping an area that was far too large, Xiao Yan who was pausing nearby was also wrapped into it. It was fortunate that Xiao Yan was alert and intelligent. He swiftly descended down to the sea of flames below the moment the invisible fire python emitted its sonic attack. With the help of the 'Green Lotus Core Flame' wrapping around his body, not only did the sea of flames around him not cause him any damage, but they had instead provided him with the best condition to hide himself.

"They are about to fight..." Xiao Yan's expression was excited as he watched the two sides in the sky which were about to begin fighting. He had waited nearly a year for this day and it appeared that he was about to achieve his reason for coming to the Jia Nan Academy.

"Be careful. The activity when they start fighting will not be small." Yao Lao's reminder sounded in Xiao Yan's heart. Although the latter was reminding Xiao Yan, his voice also contained a joy that was difficult to hide.

Xiao Yan nodded. He hid his body behind an enormous rock and ignored the fiercely burning flames around him as his gaze stared at the sky.

The invisible fire python emitted a sharp sound in the sky before it gradually curled up into a snake shape. Its completely white triangular eyes stared intently at Su Qian who was at the middle of the energy web.

As the snake curled up, the flame on the invisible fire python's body began to rise more intensely. Even the surrounding air had become distorted to the point where the gazes that were looking at the fire python could only see a vaguely enormous body.

"Everyone heads up. Be careful of its retaliation. I have already released the signal. As long as we hold on for a while, the deputy headmaster of the Outer Academy and the other Elders will hurry over. At that time, we will definitely be able to seal it once again by combining all of our strength!"

Su Qian immediately let out a stern cry as he watched the posture of the fire python that appeared to be just about to attack.

“We understand!” The Elders’ expressions became solemn as they replied in deep voices after hearing the cry.

“Hiss!”

The orderly replies had just sounded when the invisible fire python occupying the spot suddenly extended its body. That enormous body immediately shot out explosively in a lightning-like manner. Its speed did not slow even a little because of its enormous body.

Wherever the fire python passed through would leave behind traces of a vacuum in the air. The hot searing temperature was able to cause the expressions of some of the Elders to change slightly despite them being far away. Only after personally exchanging blows with it did they understand that this ‘Fallen Heart Flame’ appeared to have become much stronger than before.

“Hah!”

The invisible fire python was swiftly magnified in Su Qian’s eyes. An instant later, the hand seal of Su Qian moved abruptly, and he was the first to let out a loud cry. When the cry sounded, that colorful energy web also emitted an eye-piercing, colorful, intense glow!

“Bang!”

Its enormous body carried an incomparably ferocious charging force as it violently collided with the colorful energy web. That ferocious and strong force struck the energy web until it was protruding by nearly ten meters. The alarming appearance of being on the verge of breaking caused the students far away to wipe the cold sweat in their hearts.

“Go back!”

Su Qian’s eyes coldly and sternly observed the fire python that was struggling wildly against the energy web. His hands pressed down violently, and the entire space immediately appeared to be violently pressed downward.



After Su Qian pressed both of his palms down, the energy web that was pressured until it protruded out abruptly emitted an intense glow. An extremely powerful rebound surged out, and shot the enormous body of the invisible fire python. That enormous strength violently smashed down on the latter.

The huge tail swayed in mid-air before it finally came to a sudden stop when it was less than ten meters from the ground.

The invisible fire python did not stop when its first attack showed no effect. Its enormous tail was swung, and its body once again shot explosively toward the skyline. When it was less than fifty meters from the energy web, it widened its mouth, and an invisible flame surged out explosively in all directions!

Su Qian's expression changed a little as he watched the invisible flame that came surging over. His hands swiftly formed some seals, and an incomparably powerful Dou Qi was poured unceasingly into the energy web.

The invisible flame swiftly collided with the energy web. That extremely frightening temperature immediately caused ripples to rise on the surface of the energy web.

Although the invisible flame was ferocious, the energy web that was formed from eighteen elite Dou Wangs and a Dou Zong was naturally not an ordinary thing. Hence, the two gradually came to a stalemate where neither could do anything to the other.

“Hiss!”

Another sharp sound wave suddenly appeared. The invisible flame that came sweeping out in all directions actually began to squirm. Finally, it agglomerated into a small fire snake that was as thick as an arm in front of Su Qian's drastically changing face.

The moment the small fire snake was formed, it had an extremely frightening speed as it violently smashed against the energy web. Immediately... it exploded with a bang!

The energy web began to shake swiftly the moment the explosion swept forth. An extremely tiny hole quietly appeared...

Due to the speed at which Su Qian and the others reacted, this hole did not become the main culprit of the collapse of the energy web. However, the instant this hole appeared, an extremely wild and violent energy shot out explosively from this spot. It finally shot to the horizon. That majestic energy ripple was something that one would clearly be able to sense even from thousands of kilometers away!

“Oh no...” Su Qian’s heart immediately sank the moment that this wild, violent energy rose and spread.

# Chapter 592: Calling Out to Friends and Allies

There was a city named Feng City sitting outside the long mountain range around the Inner Academy. The city was not very large. However, it possessed an extremely important position in the 'Black-Corner Region'. This was because this was the place that the medicinal king of the 'Black-Corner Region', Han Feng, resided.

As the top alchemist in the 'Black-Corner Region', Han Feng, who had long since become a tier 6 alchemist, held quite a high position in the hearts of many factions and experts. Of course, a tier 6 alchemist was quite rare even in the entire continent. Even an ordinary Dou Huang or Dou Zong would have to be a little courteous when meeting him. After all, everyone knew just what kind of gathering strength a tier 6 alchemist possessed!

Feng City. This city was named after Han Feng's name. Such a special honor was something that extremely few people within this chaotic 'Black-Corner Region,' which was filled with massacre, could enjoy. Han Feng was one of them!

The middle of the city was a bamboo forest which was completely different from the noisy marketplace outside. This bamboo forest possessed an extremely tight defense. An ordinary person could forget about entering. Even if they were to approach a certain area around it, they would face indiscriminate attacks. Each year, there were quite a number of people who were killed by the guards of the bamboo forest because of this. Even though this place was quiet, it had become forbidden ground in the hearts of many people within Feng City.

There was a bamboo house deep within the bamboo forest. The lush green color, which was like that of emerald, seeped out a kind of faint bamboo fragrance.

A man was sitting cross-legged in a bamboo room within the tall bamboo house beside a window. He was wearing an alchemist robe. On

the back of the robe the word 'Feng' was visible in exquisite hand-sewn embroidery. At this moment, that man was focusing intently on a medicinal formula in his hand. His undistracted manner appeared extremely focused.

The man who had his head lowered while he was in silent deep thought suddenly raised it. His sharp gaze directly shot toward the distant northern horizon. He sensed an unusual yet faintly familiar energy wave at that spot.

The man's face was quite handsome. He was frowning slightly as his somewhat thin lips pressed tightly against each other. They had a cold and stern feeling to them. Even though this was the case, it still ended up causing him to have some additional charm.

"This feeling..." The man's hand was curled into a fist that slowly knocked on his forehead while he muttered softly.

Countless pieces of information repeated flashed across his mind. A long while later, his curled fist that was knocking his head stiffened abruptly. A light flashed in a lightning-like manner within his eyes as they shot once again toward the source where the energy ripple was emitted. His surprised voice carried a little shock, "This... it seems like the ripple from a 'Heavenly Flame'?"

The man's calm heart started to toss around because of the energy ripple that was suddenly transmitted. His eyes narrowed before they were suddenly slowly shut a moment later. With a gentle flick of his finger, a wave of clean liquid-like dark-blue flame strangely extended out from within the body of the man. Finally, it wrapped firmly around him.

That dark-blue flame was quite strange. At a glance, it was actually just like a cluster of clear flowing lake water. However, the most authentic sense clearly told everyone that this was not a pool of water, but a kind of flame...

The Spiritual Strength of the man had begun to soar greatly at this moment, as the dark-blue flame rose. The somewhat blurry feeling earlier had appeared to be something surging by his side at this moment and was

extremely clear...

“It is indeed a ‘Heavenly Flame’!” The dark-blue flame around the man’s body was suddenly withdrawn as he suddenly stood up. His gaze was fiery hot as he stared at the distant mountain range. A moment later, he seemed to have recognized something as his brows were knit once again while he muttered, “The direction from which the energy ripple was transmitted from seemed to be where the Jia Nan Academy is at? Don’t tell me it is them?”

Although he possessed an extremely great summoning strength within the ‘Black-Corner Region’, the Jia Nan Academy was also an extremely large being. Ordinarily speaking, even he would not dare to easily provoke it. Of course, this unwillingness to offend would definitely disappear automatically when the benefits reached a certain point. For example... the attraction of a ‘Heavenly Flame’!

“Han Beng!” The man suddenly turned around and cried in a deep voice.

As his voice sounded, a ghost-like human figure came flashing out. Finally he appeared within the bamboo house with one knee kneeling on the ground. His voice may have been hoarse, but it did not lack respect, “What orders does master have?”

“Take these tokens and inform the Ground Fire Sect, Eight Gates, Blood Sect and... ask their sect leaders to hurry over to ‘Feng City’ within two hours. I have something that requires their help. Additionally, you will personally send these two tokens to that place and invite those two misters to make a trip over.” The man randomly waved a couple of strange tokens, and threw them toward the human figure who was kneeling on the ground. The latter grabbed them in a lightning-like manner, and had just stored them into his storage ring when one gold and one silver token were shot over.

The human figure received these somewhat special gold and silver tokens. His face, which had remained expressionless, changed somewhat at this moment. In a soft voice, he asked, “Master wishes to invite even them? They usually won’t even see an ordinary person. It is likely that

even master must take out something that can attract them to invite them this time around.”

“Just do as I say. If I am able to accomplish my goal, the thing that they want will naturally not be a problem.” The man waved his hand indifferently as he spoke.

“I understand!” That human figure no longer hesitated after hearing those words. He gave a respectful reply before his body was swiftly thrown into the darkness and eventually disappeared.

The man finally slowly let out a breath of air as he watched the black figure disappear. He came to the front of the window with slow footsteps and his gaze studied the distant mountain range. A deep-blue flame suddenly surged within his eyes.

“Heavenly Flame... ke ke, I have searched for it for so many years. It is really unexpected that it is hidden within those deep mountains. As long as I am able to obtain a second kind of ‘Heavenly Flame’ as well as swallow and refine it... then...” A wild fieriness suddenly surged onto his originally sharp and cold face. The man’s hands abruptly tightened, and was just about to say something when his brows suddenly became tightly knit. His hands held his chest and hurriedly coughed a couple of times. At this moment, his breathing had also become quite a mess.

The cough continued for awhile before it slowly subsided. Letting out a deep breath of air, the man clenched his teeth and softly said, “Damn old fellow. All would be well if he had given me the ‘Flame Mantra’ to practice back then, saying that my mind wasn’t straight. My talent for refining pills is much stronger than yours!” His voice had become much softer toward the end. However, from the appearance of his tightly clenched fist, one could imagine the fury and hatred within his heart.

.....

“Bang!”

The invisible fire python once again collided heavily against the colorful energy web. It immediately let out a wave of thunder-like explosions. However, the energy web was tight at times and relaxed at others, causing

the invisible fire python to be unable to escape within a short period of time.

However, following the repeated attacks by the fire python, the color of the colorful energy web had clearly become much fainter. Moreover, the expressions of some of the Elders gradually became pale, and their breathing became hurried. Clearly, they had exhausted quite a great amount of strength in order to contain the attacks of the invisible python.

“Bang!”

The invisible fire python’s struck the energy web in a wild and violent manner. With its enormous body and its majestic energy, it gained extremely frightening momentum each time it collided with the latter. Under the nearly insane collisions by the fire python, one of the Elders was finally unable to endure it any longer after around one to two hours.

“Gurg!”

In this ferocious collision, the Dou Qi within an Elder’s body was the first to become exhausted. A mouthful of fresh blood was involuntarily spat out. Immediately, he barely managed to muster the remaining Dou Qi within his body to flap his wings to slow his descent.

Having lost the strength of an Elder, the pressure on the other Elders immediately soared. That invisible fire python also clearly understood that its chance had arrived. Hence, its attacking speed also increased. Over ten minutes later, another Elder spat out blood and withdrew. Twenty minutes later, the third Elder also withdrew in defeat...

Su Qian’s expression became increasingly ugly as he watched the pale expressions of the Elders who withdrew one at a time. Despite having repeatedly exchanged blows with the ‘Fallen Heart Flame’ these couple of years, he had never truly witnessed the terror when the ‘Fallen Heart Flame’ completely erupted. Now that he had seen it personally, he also clearly understood that such a natural being was indeed frightening...

In just three short hours, ten of the eighteen Elders had already withdrawn. Only eight Elders and Su Qian were still bitterly holding on.

Although the Elders of the Inner Academy suffered terrible losses, the situation of the invisible fire python was not very good either. The insane manner of its attacks and energy consumption had caused the flame on the surface of his body to become much dimmer. Its attack stance had also weakened.

All the Elders still bitterly enduring were able to see a thread of hope when they sensed the increasingly weak attack of the invisible fire python.

Xiao Yan, who was hidden in the flame, eyed the Elders in the sky spitting out blood and retreating one after another. He involuntarily wiped some cold sweat off his face. Despite having so many Elders joining hands, they still ended up in such a miserable state because of the 'Fallen Heart Flame'. It appeared that in order to subdue it, the degree of misery he suffered was likely going to be even greater than when he swallowed the 'Green Lotus Core Flame' back then.

"From the looks of the situation, it appears that the Elders of the Inner Academy won't be able to hold on. Teacher, when should we intervene?" Xiao Yan anxiously asked in his heart. Once the 'Fallen Heart Flame' broke free from the defense, it was likely that it would swiftly disappear. At that time, finding it would likely be extremely difficult.

"There's no need to be anxious..." Yao Lao's voice swiftly sounded in Xiao Yan's heart. There is a large group of auras hurrying over from the east. They are likely the experts in the Outer Academy. Let them squander the strength of the 'Fallen Heart Flame' a little longer.

Xiao Yan was startled when he heard this. His gaze hurriedly shot toward the horizon. He was indeed able to faintly see some black dots at a spot his gaze could barely reach.

The black spots were quickly magnified. A moment later, they transformed to a large group of people that appeared in the eyes of everyone within the Inner Academy.

"Ha ha, Elder Su, consolidating the people consumed quite a lot of time. Hopefully, we have not arrived too late." An elderly laugh suddenly resounded throughout the sky. Who else did this somewhat familiar voice



belong to other than the Deputy Headmaster, Hu Gan?

Su Qian also sighed in relief when he saw these reinforcements that had appeared at the most critical juncture. It appeared that the worst case scenario would not appear today...

The moment that the reinforcements from the Outer Academy arrived, numerous experts who possessed quite a great influence within the 'Black-Corner Region' had also gathered together within Feng City outside of the mountain range. Finally, the large group of experts soared to the sky under the laughter of the man who had a maple leaf sewn on his back. Finally, they extended their Dou Qi wings and rushed toward the Inner Academy at the other side of the mountain range.

A truly great battle was about to erupt!

# Chapter 593: Joining Hands to Seal!

The appearance of Hu Gan and the others were undoubtedly reinforcements, causing the state of the Elders, who had already reached their limits, to be bolstered.

“Everyone listen up, exchange spots with a couple of the Elders!” Hu Gan waved his hand at the large group of people who had instantly flashed and appeared in the sky outside of the energy barrier. Immediately, over ten experts that had hurried over from the Outer Academy flew up. They successfully received the task of maintaining the energy barrier with great cooperation.

The few Elders also sighed in relief when the heavy burden was received. They cupped their hands toward Hu Gan and the others with gratitude before flying down from the sky and sitting crossed legged on the ground in order to swiftly recover their exhausted Dou Qi.

Although the experts that Hu Gan had brought over from the Outer Academy were a little weaker than the Elders of the Inner Academy, they were better off in terms of having a quite a lot of them. Hence, despite the colorful energy web being slightly dimmer, it was still able to withstand the wild attacks of the invisible flame.

Su Qian’s heart also sighed in relief as he sensed the increasingly weakening attacking strength of the invisible flame. It appeared that this thing also had a point where it reached exhaustion.

A crowd of black mass was squeezed together on some of the rooftops and treetops around a hundred meters away from the colorful energy barrier. They eyed this frightening exchange, and felt somewhat speechless. The Elders who they had usually respected and feared were extremely weak under the invisible fire python. Even with their eyesight, they could see that if not for the arrival of the reinforcements from the Outer Academy, it was likely that the energy web would have been broken by the invisible fire python.

However, they also felt a shock for that mysterious invisible fire python

on top of them being speechless. It was actually able to rely on its own strength to turn the Inner Academy upside down. Moreover, from the looks of the situation, even the First Elder appeared as though he feared it greatly.

“What exactly is that thing?” Countless numbers of people were shocked and aghast in their hearts as they muttered.

Seeing that its wild attacks were useless, the invisible fire python in the sky finally ceased these meaningless actions. It once again curled its enormous body in mid-air. Those completely white eyes stared intently at the energy web in the sky. A snake tongue that was a full half a meter long was extended, appearing as though it was agglomerating the strength it needed to attack once again.

Seeing that the invisible fire python had ceased its heavy collision, the pressure that Su Qian and the others felt was also reduced. However, they did not relax much. After all, they clearly understood that the enormous being below might unleash an extremely ferocious all out attack in the next moment.

“Elder Su, it is extremely disadvantageous for us if we drag it out with it in this manner. Supporting the energy web exhausts too much Dou Qi. If it continues to cease moving, we will not be able to continue to maintain the web.” Hu Gan flashed to Su Qian’s side as he frowned and spoke in a deep voice while his gaze stared intently at the invisible fire python within the energy web.

Su Qian nodded slightly and immediately laughed, “Relax. Its current self is also in a tired state, and should not be able to unleash any overly strong attack within a short period of time. We should begin preparing for the next step of the seal during this period of time.”

“Yes, the people from our Outer Academy will be responsible for maintaining the energy web. You can direct the people from the Inner Academy to proceed with the next step of the seal.” Hu Gan nodded. Both of his hands immediately formed a seal, and a powerful Dou Qi surged out from his palm before receiving that thread of energy from Su Qian’s hand.

Although Hu Jia's strength could not be compared with Su Qian, he was at the very least an expert at the peak of the Dou Wang class. Hence, no mess would appear with him as the person in charge of controlling the entire energy web.

Su Qian, whose hands were freed, slowly rose. Finally, he was suspended at the middle of the energy web. His gaze swept over the flame surrounding the 'Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower' and immediately cried out in a deep voice, "All Elders and instructors of the Inner Academy listen up. Confirm your position according to the formation and carry out the formation plan!"

As Su Qian's voice sounded, those Elders who had rested for awhile also hurriedly opened their eyes. Their bodies leaped and once again pounced into the sky. They scattered and remained suspended in mid-air.

A large group of human figures suddenly swarmed out from the cluster of people from the Outer Academy after all the Elders took their position. There were a large number of them. Forget about comparing their auras with those of the Elders. They were clearly one level lower even if they were to be compared with Lin Xiu Ya, Liu Qing and the others. It was obvious that these were the instructors of the Inner Academy.

Although their auras were not very strong, they won in terms of having a large number of them. Therefore, with such a large group of human figures rushing about, it caused their aura to temporarily soar. Some of the students who were a great distance away also felt their heart boil because of this scene and even had an impulse to go forward and lend a hand.

The eighty-eight instructors did not possess the ability to fly. Therefore, most of them merely rushed onto some of the top of the trees around the energy barrier. The scattered figures formed an extremely clear correspondence with the Elders in the sky.

"Form the seal formation!"

Su Qian's figure was suspended high in the sky above the energy barrier. His hands abruptly gestured as he let out a deep cry.

As Su Qian's cry sounded, numerous Dou Qi glows suddenly surged out

in mid-air. Finally, numerous Elders and Instructors emitted extremely orderly clear voices from their mouths. Dou Qi surged immediately and nearly a hundred Dou Qi glows shot out explosively from everyone's hands. Their target was, however, not the invisible fire python within the energy web but Su Qian in the sky!

Su Qian's expression was solemn as he watched the Dou Qi beams shooting over from every direction. The seal in his hands changed abruptly, and a powerful circular space ripple appeared in front of him. Finally, it formed a five foot circular vacuum. Those nearly one hundred Dou Qi beams were shot into it. Immediately, the vacuum was filled with an extremely powerful aura. Hence, a five foot vacuum Dou Qi ball appeared in Su Qian's hand.

Having appeared to have sensed that extremely terrifying energy that was gathering in the air, the invisible fire python, that was curled up to recover its strength, began to feel uneasy. Its white triangular eyes viewed Su Qian in the sky with a sharp and ferocious gaze. The hot invisible flame once again surged out from its body. After which, it swung its huge tail and its body once again shot toward the energy web. The space shook repeatedly along the way, appearing distorted and folded.

"Everyone, be careful. Don't allow this beast to break through the energy web!" Hu Gan cried out in a deep voice. His expression became serious as he watched the invisible fire python that was carrying an incomparably great momentum.

"Yes!" Everyone cried out in unison. The Dou Qi in their bodies surged out, and finally poured into the energy web, causing the latter's color to become even brighter.

"Xiu!"

Its enormous body passed through the air before suddenly smashing against the energy web much like an enormous meteorite. Immediately, a loud mountain-splitting and earth-shattering explosion surged out from the point of contact. In that instant, the expressions of many experts in the Outer Academy had become a little paler.

“This beast is indeed frightening...” Su Qian’s face was a little flushed. He watched that energy barrier be pressed until it formed an extremely dangerous arc. The Dou Qi within his body suddenly flowed like floodwater before it was unceasingly poured into the energy web and held it together.

However, the invisible fire python appeared to know just how great a danger the energy agglomerating in Su Qian’s hand was this time around. Hence, it basically went all out to struggle. The glow of that energy web had quietly dimmed a little under this struggle.

“Elder Su, hurry up!” The hand of Hu Gan was repeatedly trembling slightly as he grit his teeth and shouted toward Su Qian in the sky.

Su Qian’s gaze was locked intently on the invisible fire python, which was struggling intensely in the web below. The glow of that enormous Dou Qi ball in his hand also grew increasingly bright. His long robe rose until it was stretched to the max. The way it grew was as though it was a balloon which had air blown in it.

The Dou Qi ball in his hand was basically like a bright sun following the gathering of energy, appearing extremely eye-catching. In the next instant, that enormous Dou Qi ball suddenly began to tremble intensely. Su Qian understood that this was because it had already reached its limit.

A stern coldness flashed across Su Qian’s eyes as he sensed the Dou Qi ball trembling in his hand. He let out a low cold cry that reverberated within the Inner Academy like rolling thunder, “Beast, go back!”

Su Qian’s hands suddenly pressed downward as the cry sounded. That enormous Dou Qi ball also emitted a ‘chi’ sound as it cut through the resistance of the air, and quietly entered the energy web. Finally, it appeared like a cannonball as it violently smashed into the enormous body of the invisible fire python.

“Hiss!”

Even with the strength of the invisible fire python, it emitted an extremely sharp hiss upon being struck by such a wild, violent attack. The powerful explosion that had suddenly erupted pushed it violently to the

ground. Finally, it was shot into the broken 'Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower' from Su Qian's hands.

"Seal!"

The invisible fire python was once again thrown into the 'Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower'. Joy flashed momentarily in Su Qian's eyes. His hands abruptly formed a seal while he cried.

As Su Qian cry resounded, one could see that the top of the 'Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower' which had broken apart suddenly emitted a layer of pale-black energy film. The tip of the tower was firmly covered.

"Hah!"

Seeing the 'Fallen Heart Flame' which was once again sealed within the tower, the countless students watching from the surroundings immediately emitted a cheer that could move mountains and flip the sea.

"Teacher..." Xiao Yan watched the 'Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower' which contained a black-colored glow from within the sea of flames. He knit his brows slightly as he softly spoke in his heart.

"Don't be anxious. It is not so easy to seal the 'Fallen Heart Flame'... moreover... there seems to be another faction which had been alerted by the activity here." Yao Lao's somewhat surprised voice sounded in Xiao Yan's heart.

Xiao Yan was startled when he heard this. His face immediately changed slightly as he involuntarily cried out, "Don't tell me it is the people from the 'Black-Corner Region?'"

"The surroundings of the Jia Nan Academy only have the 'Black-Corner Region. I think it should be..."

"These fellows are really cats which cannot resist the smell of fish. They even dare to get involved in the matters of the Inner Academy." Xiao Yan's eyes narrowed. His gaze was thrown toward the clear sky. Although the Inner Academy was covered by a space mirror, it was not a very strong concealment against a truly strong person.

Su Qian in the sky also heaved a sigh of relief as he watched the 'Fallen Heart Flame' which was once again sealed from the sky. A smile also surfaced on his face when he heard the cheers from the distance. However, the smile had just surfaced when it suddenly stiffened under the soft laughter that had suddenly appeared.

“Ke ke, it is really unexpected that the Inner Academy is still hiding such a 'Heavenly Flame'. First Elder Su Qian, you had really kept the secret well...”

A wave of ripples suddenly rose within the clear sky as this laughter sounded. Immediately, a large group of human figures slowly walked closer. They eventually remained suspended in the sky. Immediately, a blood thirsty aura covered the sky of the entire Inner Academy!



# Chapter 594: Incomplete Flame Mantra

The laughter that had suddenly appeared above caused the cheer that had resounded over the place to suddenly stop. Countless numbers of students watched the large group of people who had appeared in the sky in a stunned manner, and were somewhat unable to make heads or tails of the situation.

In the sky, Su Qian's expression was dark and solemn as he glared at the group of people, who had appeared by breaking through the mirror. His gaze slowly paused on the man who was wearing an alchemist robe at the front. His eyes immediately began to slowly narrow as he coldly laughed, "I thought I recognized you. It is actually the medicinal emperor Han Feng from the 'Black-Corner Region'."

"Ke ke, First Elder is too courteous. That name is something that was randomly given to me by my friends from the 'Black-Corner Region'. I am really not worthy of it." The thin lips of the man who was addressed as Han Feng carried a slight smile as he spoke to Su Qian.

"Han Feng, this is a place that belongs to my Jia Nan Academy. What are all of you planning to do by coming uninvited?" Hu Gan's expression had similar appeared quite ugly because of the appearance of Han Feng and the others. His body slowly rose until it was behind Su Qian before crying out to him.

"He is Han Feng?" Xiao Yan was suddenly startled when he heard the name from the ground. He immediately spoke in a soft shocked voice as his gaze involuntarily examined this alchemist grandmaster who could be considered as his 'Senior'.

Han Feng laughed softly. However, his gaze glanced to the broken tip of the 'Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower'. In a gentle voice, he said, "A 'Heavenly Flame' is a natural mysterious object. It is indeed a little too cruel to seal it here in this manner. As an alchemist, a flame could be said to form a kind of faith in our hearts. Therefore, Han Feng wishes to ask First Elder to release this 'Heavenly Flame', and not perform this kind of

imprisonment.”

The moment that Han Feng’s voice sounded, not only did the faces of Su Qian and the others become quite strange, but even those people around him also had strange expressions. For those people in the ‘Black-Corner Region’ murder and arson were common things, much less whatever nonsense imprisonment was. Most importantly, the thing that was imprisoned was not even a human but merely a cluster of flame even though this flame possessed an extremely great amount of energy.

“What a ridiculous excuse. Do you think we, the people at the Jia Nan Academy, are three year old kids?” Hu Gan laughed coldly. He waved his hand and one could hear the rushing wind sound from all over the sky. Immediately nearly twenty human figures with Dou Qi wings flashed and appeared, watching Han Feng’s group on the opposite side in a malicious manner.

“Just tell us if you want to snatch the ‘Heavenly Flame’. Speaking in a roundabout manner does not match your status.” Su Qian flung his sleeves as his gaze suddenly swept over the group of people with strange appearance behind Han Feng. The hand in his sleeves immediately tightened as he said faintly, “Ke ke, you are indeed worthy of being the Medicine Emperor. You are able to invite the leaders of factions like the Blood Sect, Ground Fire Gate, Eight Gates. You are likely the only one who possesses such summoning ability within the ‘Black-Corner Region’.”

“Ha ha, First Elder is really an outspoken person.” Han Feng laughed. He immediately let out a sigh and spoke, “Since First Elder is able to guess my intentions, I would trouble you to accommodate us. You should know just how important a ‘Heavenly Flame’ is to us alchemists. I will try my best to satisfy whatever conditions you have as long as you can hand the ‘Heavenly Flame’ to me.”

Ridicule was contained on the corner of Su Qian’s mouth. He waved his sleeves and mocked, “Do you think I don’t know just what kind of person you are? If it was your teacher Yao Zun-zhe who was saying this, I might actually consider such an offer. You, however, should go and continue practicing for a couple more decades. Our Jia Nan Academy has not relied

on an empty name to survive in the Dou Qi continent for so many years.”

TL: zun-ze – Basically a title of sorts given to Dou Zun.

The smile on Han Feng’s face was slowly withdrawn. His gaze that was filled with warmth had also gradually become dark and cold. “Since First Elder is unwilling to hand it over, you should not blame Han Feng for forcefully snatching it.” The moment his words sounded, a wave of liquid water-like dark-blue flames suddenly surged from his body. High temperature slowly spread out from it.

“Heavenly Flame?”

Waves of shocked voices sounded the moment the dark-blue flame appeared. In everyone’s eyesight, it was natural that they were able to identify Han Feng’s flame at a glance.

Xiao Yan’s gaze that was staring at the sky from the cluster of flames on the ground had suddenly shrank at this moment. He gently inhaled a breath of cool air as he muttered, “This fellow... actually also possesses a ‘Heavenly Flame’!” His voice had just sounded when his expression suddenly changed slightly. He merely sensed that the dark black ring on his finger had become quite hot at this moment.

Xiao Yan forcefully endured the searing pain, but remained silent. When he first heard the name Han Feng, the black-colored ring had also become fiery hot because of the uprising of Yao Lao’s Spiritual Strength. This kind of flame had become increasingly intense now...

“Teacher...” Xiao Yan softly cried out in his heart.

It was a long while after Xiao Yan’s voice sounded before Yao Lao’s voice carried a tread of low spirits as it slowly sounded, “I am fine. You need not worry. It is just that I did not expect this traitor would actually have such good fortune.”

Xiao Yan gently rubbed the dark-black ring as he spoke in his heart, “Relax, teacher, leave the matter of cleaning up the traitors to me...”

“It is fine that you have such an intention, but the current you is still no match for him. His training time far exceeds your own, and he also

currently possesses a 'Heavenly Flame'. Therefore, do not have any conflict with him in the near future." Yao Lao sighed.

Xiao Yan quietly nodded. He knew that what Yao Lao said was true. With his current ability, he was far inferior to this senior regardless of whether it was in terms of strength or medicinal refinement.

"However..." Xiao Yan suddenly knit his brows doubtfully and softly spoke in his heart, "Teacher, I remember that an ordinary alchemist can at most have one kind of flame, right? Since this Han Feng also possesses a of 'Heavenly Flame', why is he still here to rob?"

Yao Lao descended into a silence the moment Xiao Yan's words sounded. It was a long while later before a deep hoarse voice sounded, "This is because... he also practices 'Flame Mantra'!"

Xiao Yan's body stiffened. His face was shocked.

"However, the 'Flame Mantra' which he practices is merely an incomplete one." Only with Yao Lao's words at the end did Xiao Yan quietly sigh in relief.

"Incomplete? What do you mean?"

"Back then, when he was still my disciple, he had stolen the 'Flame Mantra' when I was off-guard. However, I discovered it while he was practicing. Due to his haste, he could only obtain a portion of 'Flame Mantra's' Qi Method routes. " Yao Lao's voice was somewhat hoarse when he recalled his memory back then, "However, I have already said that his talent in medicinal refinement is not weaker than your own. After feeling about for so many years, it is likely that he may have found a little something. Otherwise, he would not be interested in a second type of 'Heavenly Flame'."

Xiao Yan nodded slightly. His gaze stared intently at the figure in the sky. It was really unexpected that Han Feng also practiced the 'Flame Mantra'. Although it was merely an incomplete version, it still caused Xiao Yan to possess a somewhat strange feeling. That was... he must kill the latter!

This kind of feeling did not arouse from Xiao Yan's heart. Instead it was nearly a sort of instinctive reaction. This kind of instinctive reaction reached deep into Xiao Yan's mind, causing his intention to kill Han Feng to be much denser.

Xiao Yan inhaled a deep breath of air and suppressed the killing intent that rose from within his heart. His gaze swept over the two factions within the sky as he involuntarily frowned. If he were to compare the number of people now, the Jia Nan Academy naturally had more people. However, most of the people from the Academy were at the Dou Wang class. Other than Hu Gan, there was no one else who was an expert Dou Huang. On the other hand, most of the faction leaders on Han Feng's side were of the Dou Huang class. On top of this, some of the experts from the other factions were at the Dou Wang class. No one knew just who would end up losing if they were to really fight...

"However, the Inner Academy still has the First Elder. He is an elite Dou Zong. With him around, it is likely that Han Feng would not dare to be careless despite him having many expert Dou Huang." Xiao Yan repeatedly calculated both parties strength within his heart.

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"Han Feng, the old me advises you to leave as soon as possible. I can treat it as though nothing has happened. Otherwise, if the headmaster returns in the future, it is likely that not one of you present will be able to escape!" Su Qian cried out sternly as he watched the dark-blue flame rising from Han Feng's body.

"Ke ke, First Elder need not try to scare me. Your headmaster has not revealed himself for many years. Who knows just where he has run off to?" Han Feng laughed. The gaze which he used to look at the 'Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower' was filled with heat. "As long as I am able to obtain this 'Heavenly Flame', it is likely that no one will know who the one who took it is even if he came searching for me in the future!"

"Therefore, I will also advise First Elder to hand over the 'Heavenly Flame'. You are also clearly aware of what kind of characters that we, the

people from the 'Black-Corner Region' have. If we were to really end up fighting, it is likely that this Inner Academy would also be completely destroyed, right?" Han Feng appeared to laugh as he spoke. His voice was actually filled with a threat.

Su Qian inhaled a deep breath of air. His face was covered in green. Both of his hands were slowly extended out of his sleeves and grasped the air gently. The space began to fluctuate intensely at this moment as he spoke in a dark and cold manner, "It has been many years since I fought. Today, the old me will decide and see if you have the right to say these words!"

"All Elders, listen up. Protect the 'Heavenly Flame' until death!" Su Qian suddenly let out a soft cry. His cry was like a thunder that resounded unceasingly in the sky.

"Protect the 'Heavenly Flame' until death!"

All the experts in the academy cried out in unison. Immediately, waves of powerful auras surged to the sky!

"Stubborn fellow. A Dou Zong may be strong, but it does not mean that one is invincible. The 'Black-Corner Region' still has people who can match you!" Han Feng quietly took a step back when he sensed the powerful pressure that spread out from Su Qian's body. With a cold laugh, he immediately turned around and spoke respectively, "Misters Gold and Silver, please reveal yourself!"

"Ha ha, Han Feng, you should know the price of inviting us to act. Hopefully, you will be eventually be able to take it out. Otherwise..." Han Feng's voice had just sounded when two loud bouts of laughter suddenly sounded. The space began to ripple immediately as a gold and a silver figure appeared in the sky in a ghost-like manner.

The expressions of Su Qian and the others immediately changed as they watched the gold and silver figures in the sky. A cold wind-like voice popped up from the gap between Su Qian's teeth.

"It is really unexpected... that even you two were invited!"

# Chapter 595: Chaotic Great Battle

Two human figures surfaced in the sky in a strange manner. One of them was in a golden robe while the other was in a silver one. However, if one were to look carefully, one would be able to discover that the faces of the two were basically identical. They had white hair and beards, and their features appeared to be carved out from a mold.

The names of these two people were not unfamiliar even to the Elders within the Inner Academy. It was due to this that their expressions changed slightly. The so-called Mister Gold and Mister Silver were two of the top experts ranked on the 'Black-Corner Ranking' in the 'Black-Corner Region'. Due to the two of them being twins and their Qi Method were completely the same, these two people, whose strength were similar to only a peak Dou Huang experts when they were apart, were able to complement each others strength when they fought an opponent together. They possessed quite a great chance of victory even when facing an Dou Zong. Hence, the names of these two were extremely renowned throughout the expert level of the 'Black-Corner Region'. This caused even the Elders within the Inner Academy to have heard of them.

"You are also thinking of intervening in this matter?" Su Qian slowly spoke in a dark and solemn manner.

"We were tasked by others. Each of us has what the other needs, and it cannot be helped." The old man who was wearing gold robes smiled and spoke to Su Qian.

"Old Su, I will tell you that it is better to give the 'Heavenly Flame' to Han Feng. If your Headmaster were around, we would not agree to this transaction. Unfortunately, there is no news of that old fellow after so many years. No one knows if he is dead or something." The silver-robed old man laughed in a somewhat mean voice. That tone was actually similar to the gold-robed old man.

"Hei, what wishful thinking. I want to see just how great the Gold Silver Elders who are rumored to be able to fight an opponent across a class are.

Even if the Headmaster is not around, it is not up to all of you to come and behave atrociously!" Su Qian laughed coldly.

"If that is the case, it seems that there are insufficient experts in your Inner Academy." The gold-robed old man laughed. Although Han Feng's side was fewer in number, they won in terms of their strength having far surpassed the Elders of the Academy. If they were to really fight, it was possible for them to deal with two at once or even three...

Su Qian's expression was icy-cold. However, he was too lazy to say any more nonsense. Both of his hands rotated slightly and a majestic Dou Qi spat out from his palm, shaking the air until it began to tremble a little.

"First Elder Su Qian, I will ask you one last time. Are you going to hand over the 'Heavenly Flame' or not?" Han Feng's patience had completely worn down as they dwindled in this manner. His eyes Su Qian and the others before asking faintly.

Su Qian was expressionless. He merely waved his sleeves in the face of Han Feng's inquiry. A powerful Dou Qi pillar suddenly shot out from his sleeves and rushed directly at Han Feng!

"Hmph!"

Han Feng's expression gradually turned cold when Su Qian took the lead to attack. He snorted and flicked his finger. A deep-blue flame surfaced in his palm. Finally, with a gentle swing, it collided violently with the Dou Qi pillar.

"Bang!"

A low, deep explosion appeared and the energy ripple that came spreading over shook Han Feng until he hurriedly took a step back. Only then did he stabilize his body. Although he had the help of a 'Heavenly Flame', Su Qian was still an elite Dou Zong. The former was unable to gain any advantage in a head on collision.

Su Qian's body did not pause for a moment after throwing out a strike. He turned into lightning that instantly shot toward Han Feng.

"Ke ke, Old Su, you should come and play with us." The gold and silver



figures instantly flashed and appeared in front of Han Feng, parting their mouths they gave Su Qian a smile. The hands of the two of them tightened and an extremely powerful pale-green Dou Qi shot out explosively.

Su Qian's twisted his body to dodge the pale-green Dou Qi that shot over explosively. His body moved and appeared in front of both the Gold and Silver old men. Immediately, the wind from the palms of the three parties were exchanged with one another, and a low, deep, muffled thunder-like sound of the palm's wind was repeatedly emitted from the afterimages that caused one to be dazzled.

Han Feng's gaze turned to Hu Gan and the others upon seeing Su Qian being pestered by the Gold and Silver old men. With a wave of his hand, he turned around and laughed toward the large group of people behind him, "Next, I would like to trouble everyone to stop the remaining people. I will go down and undo that seal."

"They are but some Dou Wangs. It is fine if you leave them to us. Moreover, the taste of the fresh blood of the Elders within the Inner Academy is something that I have yet to taste." The sect leader of the Blood Sect Fan Lao stared at Hu Gan and the others in a dark manner filled with malice. He parted his mouth and revealed his somewhat sharp teeth. Ever since his only son was unknowingly killed within the 'Black-Corner Region' and the search for his murder turned out futile, Fan Lao's originally gloomy character had become somewhat temperamental. The moment he acted, he would kill and obtain blood, appearing extremely violent.

"Ke ke, in that case, thank you very much everyone. Han Feng will definitely thank everyone heavily once this matter is successful." Han Feng cupped his hands to Fan Lao and the others. The dark-blue Dou Qi wings behind him flapped and he immediately landed next to the 'Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower'.

"Stop them!" Hu Gan waved his hand upon seeing this. The nearly thirty plus experts of the academy behind him immediately rushed out from all directions, blocking Han Feng's route.

“Tsk tsk, your opponents are us...” Over ten human figures carrying dense bloody auras suddenly flashed and appeared before forming an opposite situation with the experts of the Inner Academy.

Han Feng laughed. His body turned and he continued flying toward the ‘Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower’. The thirty plus experts from the academy had just acted when the ten plus top experts from the ‘Black-Corner Region’ came flashing out in an orderly manner. Immediately, the incomparably powerful wind they carried came knocking violently. Finally, the group of thirty plus experts were completely scattered in a short instant when the human figures rushed forth.

The battle in the sky arrived suddenly and intensely. All the students in the distance were not exactly clear what happened in the sky. However, after the battle erupted, the repeated sounds of energy explosions caused their expressions to change. Only now were they able to guess that the mysterious person who had suddenly arrived had ill will.

Although they understood this in their hearts and some of the students wanted to lend a hand, the battle in the distant sky caused them to feel that they were powerless. Hence, they could only just watch the wild, violent, chaotic battle that had erupted in the sky, as their hearts repeatedly prayed that the Elders in the Inner Academy could expel these unwanted guests.

Han Feng flapped his wings after the chaotic battle erupted in the sky and appeared at the top of the ‘Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower’. He eyed the dark, dim glowing energy film below and was just about to act when a sharp rushing wind sound suddenly sounded above his head!

Han Feng frowned slightly. He flapped his wings and dodged the wind attack before slowly raising his head, only to see Hu Gan staring at him with an icy-cold face.

“You can forget about having delusions of the ‘Heavenly Flame’!” The powerful Dou Qi in Hu Gan’s hand swiftly agglomerated as he spoke in a deep voice.

“It is likely that you cannot block me with just you alone.” Han Feng felt

a little surprise as he watched Hu Gan, who had actually escaped the battle circle of the large group before immediately speaking with a smile. With his strength and with the help of the 'Heavenly Flame', there was basically hardly anyone among the Dou Huang class who were a match for him. Hence, Han Feng was not too afraid of Hu Gan despite the latter's strength being at the peak of the Dou Huang class.

"In that case, you can come and try." Hu Gan laughed coldly. He did not say any nonsense as a powerful aura came spreading out from his body. Dou Qi wrapped the frowning Han Feng as it erupted. The two people immediately turned into blurry figures as they intertwined and fought with each other.

Hence, the sky had completely descended into a chaotic fight. A fiery battle was basically occurring wherever one looked. The sound of energy explosions were like firecrackers that let out repeated 'bangs'.

Xiao Yan was somewhat stunned as he watched the chaotic battle in the sky from the ground. Su Qian was already delayed by the so-called Gold Silver Elders. Hu Gan, and Han Feng had also sunk into an intense battle. All the Elders were being repeatedly and forcefully stopped by the sect leaders of the Blood Sect and the various other sects, who were fighting two at the same time. Yet they were actually managing to gain the upper hand in this situation where they were outnumbered. It must be said that the difference between elite Dou Wangs and Dou Huangs was quite big.

Xiao Yan's gaze was slightly dizzy because of the dazzling fight. He merely inquired bitterly within his heart, "Teacher, what do we do now?"

"We can only wait. You cannot go and break the seal yourself during this great battle between both parties. You will attract the attention of both parties if you do that." Yao Lao's voice sounded swiftly.

Xiao Yan nodded slightly. He could only do as he was told and once again hid his body under the cover of the flame. However, just when he had hid himself again, the sharp sound of rushing wind suddenly shot explosively from the sky, shocking the former. His Purple Cloud Wings moved abruptly and his body flashed to the air to dodge the wind.

Although this action allowed him to dodge the attack, it also caused his body to be revealed. However, it was fortunate that some of those people who were alerted did not adopt any offensive stance toward Xiao Yan. Xiao Yan also did not dare to stay in this sky that was filled with chaos. He immediately began to hurriedly wrapped his body within a green-colored Dou Qi before withdrawing.

Just as Xiao Yan was about to withdraw, the Sect Leader of the Blood Sect, Fan Lao, who was enjoying himself fighting with three experts Dou Wangs at a certain spot in the sky, suddenly turned his eyes and randomly swept them over. His gaze suddenly paused!

A human figure that was wrapped in green flame... This back that appeared to be one that he was familiar with caused a bloody redness to instantly surge up in both of his eyes. He borrowed a certain sense that enabled him to know that this back was definitely the same as the back of the murderer that appeared in the mirror he had refined from the blood of his dead son!

After being unable to find the murderer of his son after all sorts of methods, it was unexpected that he would meet the murder in this kind of place!

“Roar!”

A bloody redness agglomerated within his eyes as a roar that was filled with fury and killing intent exploded out from his mouth. A powerful bright red Dou Qi abruptly surged. The three expert Dou Wangs, who were caught off guard, were shaken until they bodies flew back.

The instant the three Dou Wang Elders pulled back, the wings on Fan Lao's back were flapped, and his body appeared to be like a blood-colored light as it shot explosively toward Xiao Yan at the corner under a countless number of shocked gazes. A sharp roar shook the horizon.

“Little bastard, you really gave me a hard time looking for you. Go and die with my son!”

# Chapter 596: Fighting Fan Lao

The thunder-like roar that suddenly appeared on the horizon also caused Xiao Yan's entire body to tremble. He hurriedly turned around, only to find a blood-red human figure swiftly expanding within his eyesight.

"This is bad. How did this old fellow discover me?" Xiao Yan had clearly heard Fan Lao's cry. Therefore, he was stunned in his heart. At the same time, the wings on his back flapped swiftly, and his body flashed in a lightning-like manner with the intention of shaking off Fan Lao.

"Xiu!"

Xiao Yan's body had just turned around when a sharp wind flashed toward him. A chill appeared in his heart as he forcefully twisted his body and he narrowly dodged the blood-red force. His body shot back as he scolded angrily in his heart, "Old dog, you are really vicious."

Fan Lao's face was green, and filled with a poisonous look. His eyes stared intently at Xiao Yan as the blood-colored wings on his back flapped. His body transformed into a bloody figure that shot explosively toward Xiao Yan. A dense, chilly, blood-colored Dou Qi swiftly agglomerated in his hand.

Although Xiao Yan also had the help of a flying Dou Technique, its flying speed was unable to compare with true Dou Qi wings. Hence, in merely the blink of an eye, Fan Lao flashed and appeared above Xiao Yan's head. The blood color in his hand smashed down violently. At that instant, even the air shook intently. Clearly, Fan Lao did not show any mercy in his attacks. He was completely using fatal moves!

"Return me my son's life!" Lao Fan's expression was ferocious as he grinned and spoke. He could sense Xiao Yan's strength. He was merely a little Dou Ling, it was definitely as easy to kill him as it was to flip one's hand.

"Chi!"

As the bloody glow came curling over from all directions, a faint thunder noise suddenly sounded. Xiao Yan's body, which was standing quietly in the air, suddenly trembled a little. His entire body also became illusionary at this instant.

“Bang!”

The bloody glow came surging down explosively and firmly smashed onto Xiao Yan's body. However, Xiao Yan did not spit out blood and become seriously injured as he had expected. That bloody glow passed through Xiao Yan's body without any resistance. After which, that body... slowly disappeared.

This body was actually an afterimage!

Xiao Yan was panting as he suddenly flashed and appeared around a dozen meters from where the bloody glow surged. He laughed coldly at the surprised face of Fan Lao as he said, “It is not so easy to kill me, old dog!”

Fan Lao waved his hand and scattered the blood glow that had curled out. His gaze watched Xiao Yan in a dark and solemn manner as his voice said in a dark and evil manner, “‘Three Thousand Lightning Movement’? Looks like the one who killed my son was indeed you!”

Xiao Yan's gaze stared at Fan Lao. No matter how one put it, the other party was an elite Dou Huang. If he had not displayed the ‘Three Thousand Lightning Movement’ and caught the other party off-guard earlier, it was likely that he would not escape being killed on the spot. After all, the gap between him and the latter was really too large.

Waves of powerful Dou Qi flowed out unceasingly from the Dou Crystal within Xiao Yan's body. Finally, it began galloping within his Qi Paths like flood water. The feeling of being filled with the energy that it carried caused Xiao Yan to quietly feel a little emboldened in his heart.

“Good! Very good!” Fan Lao flapped his blood-colored Dou Qi wings slightly. The perniciousness of his laughter caused one's entire body to feel cold, “Once I capture you, your death will not be too simple. I will rear you as my blood slave who will provide me with the freshest blood day and night. Otherwise, I will not be able to face my dead son!”

“Old dog, why don’t you come and try!” Those dark-black pupils had a dark coldness gradually brewing in them as Xiao Yan slowly spoke.

Given Fan Lao’s status, being called ‘old dog’ repeatedly by Xiao Yan also caused him to become extremely furious. He immediately decided to let Xiao Yan suffer a fate worse than death.

Both of his somewhat sharp palms moved slightly and threads of blood-colored Dou Qi began to surge out like fresh blood. Finally, they formed tens of thousands of blood threads that surrounded Fan Lao’s body as the latter began to breath hurriedly.

Xiao Yan’s face had also become extremely serious as he sensed the frightening aura that was gradually rising within Fan Lao’s body. As long as one made the slightest mistake when fighting with an expert of this class, one would end up with a miserable death.

The fight between Xiao Yan and Fan Lao in the sky within the extremely chaotic battleground naturally aroused the attention of a countless number of Inner Academy’s students in the distance. All the faces of these students immediately became ugly. They were unclear of the situation but from the looks of it, it appeared that Xiao Yan had stepped forward to help contribute by fighting with a powerful opponent! Hence, quite a number of people felt respect for Xiao Yan within their hearts. After training for so many years within the Inner Academy, they did possess quite the feelings toward this place. Now that there were strong enemies attacking them, it was natural that they felt a similar feeling of fighting against a common enemy. However, due to their strengths and other reasons, they could only just stand at this place and watch battle, powerless to do anything.

Xiao Yan, who had just stepped forward, undoubtedly became someone whom they entrusted. Hence... numerous ear-shaking deafening threatening sounds also shouted out loud in an excited manner from the countless number of students in the distance. At this moment, it must be said that Xiao Yan’s reputation had truly exceeded Lin Xiu Ya, Liu Qing, and the others!

Xiao Yan was also startled when he suddenly heard the threatening

sound that reverberated through the air. His gaze drifted in the direction where the voices came from and was immediately somewhat speechless upon seeing the fieriness and respect on the faces of these students. If he was not discovered by Fan Lao, he would have long ago fled afar. Who would be willing to take such a big risk and fight with a Dou Huang?

“I will reduce your reputation in their eyes to dust. Don’t tell me that a mere little Dou Ling can flip the sky?” Fan Lao laughed coldly. He immediately waved his hand abruptly. The blood-colored energy threads which shrouded around him immediately curled out in all directions. The sharp rushing wind sound repeatedly let out a ‘chi chi’ noise.

The blood-colored energy threads that came from all directions nearly covered all the space Xiao Yan could use to dodge. Fan Lao was clearly aware of just how shockingly agile the person in front of him was after having practiced the ‘Three Thousand Lightning Movement’. Hence, he had restricted the other party’s speed the moment he attacked.

Xiao Yan’s gaze was focused as he eyed the blood-colored energy threads that came from all directions. He exhaled a deep breath of air and suddenly emitted a low cry. A turbulent green-colored flame surged out explosively and finally wrapped his body within.

The appearance of the green-colored flame immediately caused Fan Lao’s expression to change. With his experience, he was naturally able to see just what kind of background this flame had. However, his attack had already been activated. He could only continue no matter what kind of attack the opponent used. Moreover, even though Xiao Yan truly possessed a ‘Heavenly Flame’, attempting to unleash its strength would depend on his own strength. Hence, the appearance of the green-colored flame may have caused Fan Lao to be shocked, but he did not feel any sense of panic.

The blood threads that came from all directions passed through the sky in a lightning-like manner, appearing in front of Xiao Yan in the blink of an eye. However, just as the blood threads were about three meters from Xiao Yan, the hot temperature suddenly erupted. The blood threads, which were of the dark and cold affinity immediately melted into nothingness!



Although the green-colored flame had some ability to restrain the dark, cold blood threads, those blood threads were coming from all directions, and were showing no sign of being exhausted. Hence, Xiao Yan's flame was gradually shrinking back as it was pounced by the unceasing amount of blood threads.

Fan Lao coldly laughed as he watched Xiao Yan's flame, which was gradually shrinking. He waved his hand, and the blood threads all over the place twisted strangely. They intertwined with one another before coiling into a blood ball net. Within the net was Xiao Yan, who was putting up a resistance!

"So what if you have a 'Heavenly Flame'? With your strength, you are unable to unleash its full potential." Fan Lao laughed in a dark, cold manner. He eyed Xiao Yan who was bitterly resisting the corrosion of the blood threads. He tightened his hand and the blood-colored energy agglomerated before eventually solidifying into a blood-colored long spear that had a flickering cold glint.

"Little bastard, go and die!"

Enmity surfaced on the corner of his mouth. Fan Lao laughed in a dark manner as his hand shook abruptly. Immediately, the blood-colored long spear tore through the air in a lightning-like manner as it carried a sharp wind and shot explosively toward the blood ball net Xiao Yan was trapped in.

"Old fellow, aren't you embarrassed at fighting a Dou Ling as an elite Dou Huang?" A tender voice suddenly sounded in the air just as the blood-colored long spear was about to shoot into the blood ball net. Immediately, a lovely small figure suddenly appeared outside of the blood ball net. A pale-purple ponytail was flung as a tender little fist was thrown forward violently. Immediately, the air in front of her was pressured into an invisible air bubble that collided with the blood-colored long spear!

"Bang!"

The air ripple spread quickly with a low, deep explosion shaking the air until it fluctuated slightly.

Fan Lao's gaze was like that of a poisonous snake that firmly locked onto the lovely little girl which had appeared outside of the blood ball net. His expression sank as he cried, "Are you seeking death?"

Zi Yan curled her mouth. Her little fist gave out a few punch that formed some wind. A low, deep sonic boom formed under her fist. She raised her head and faced Fan Lao without the slightest fear, "Old fellow, who is going to help me refine Yaowan should you kill Xiao Yan?"

Fan Lao's expression sunk. He was too lazy to say any nonsense. Given his character, he would not show the slightest mercy killing when he was angry even if the person in front of him was a baby, much less a little girl. Hence, the blood-colored energy once again agglomerated ferociously as his palm fell.

Zi Yan's carved jade-like little face became slightly serious after appearing to sense the killing intent that was rising within Lao Fan's body. Her little fist also slowly tightened.

"Chi!"

Another two rushing wind sounds appeared just as Fan Lao was about to act. Two figures flashed through the sky and appeared beside Zi Yan's body. At a glance, the two of them were surprisingly Lin Xiu Ya and Liu Qing. At this moment, the two of them had a pair of somewhat thin and illusionary Dou Qi wings. With the exception of Zi Yan, it was likely only the two of them could rise to the sky to fight among the entire student population of the Inner Academy.

"The disaster of the Inner Academy is not just your problem alone." Liu Qing turned his head around and looked at Xiao Yan, who was struggling to resolve the blood thread imprisonment. There was actually a faint thread of respect in the former's gaze.

"Ke ke, Liu Qing is right. You should settle your trouble first. We will delay him." The longsword in Lin Xiu Ya's hand shook gently as he added, "Honestly speaking, however, you really have no fear. If you had not chosen to take the lead and step forward, it's likely that even I would not dare to intervene in such a situation."

Xiao Yan watched the three of them outside in a stunned manner. He immediately laughed bitterly and shook his head. He did not stand out intentionally...

“Looks like... I can only go all out...” Xiao Yan muttered softly as he stared at Fan Lao, whose eyes were filled with killing intent.

# Chapter 597: Helping Hand

A couple of human figures were suspended in the air opposing each other in the distant sky outside of the chaotic battleground. Behind one group was an enormous blood ball net that was extremely eye-catching.

“Give me three minutes!” Xiao Yan’s gaze swept toward Zi Yan and the three others outside as he suddenly spoke.

Zi Yan and the three others were stunned before they immediately nodded slightly.

“Tsk tsk, with just you three Dou Wangs? Moreover, two of you only have half a foot in the Dou Wang class. Yet you hope to delay me?” Fan Lao let out a strange laugh.

“Old fellow, you really are full of crap.” Zi Yan curled her mouth and scolded. She immediately shouted to Liu Qing and Lin Xiuya beside her, “I am about to attack, the two of you should be careful!” Her voice had just sounded when the lovely little figure trembled slightly. Without waiting for a reply, she shot toward Fan Lao who was not far away. Her little fist was slightly tightened as a frightening energy was brewed on it.

Seeing Zi Yan act, Liu Qing, and Lin Xiuya both felt helpless. They hurriedly moved their bodies and followed quickly. The Dou Qi within their bodies was unleashed to the maximum. They clearly understood that their opponent this time around was stronger than any other one they had faced. If they were careless, it was very possible that they would be seriously injured or even be killed on the spot.

Zi Yan and the other two, who had suddenly rose to the air to support Xiao Yan, undoubtedly became the focus of attention of all the Inner Academy’s students on the ground. The four, who were called the peak experts among the Inner Academy students, were facing off against an elite Dou Huang. This exciting battle caused many people to feel their blood starting to boil. Some of the students who had the ability to join the fight but were unable to rise to the air had completely flushed red faces caused by the fighting intent that filled their chest. Among them were Lin

Yan, Yan Hao, and the other top existences. Only people of their class barely had the qualification to participate in a fight at such a level among the students of the Inner Academy.

“A group of people from the younger generation actually dare to be so bold?” Fan Lao coldly laughed as he watched Zi Yan and the other two who shot over. His pale-white shriveled hand suddenly shook. Immediately, three waves of blood-colored Dou Qi surfaced and immediately agglomerated into three blood snakes that were as thick as one’s arm. With a flick of his finger, the blood snakes were shot out abruptly. They opened their bloody huge mouths in a savage manner. A bloody stench pounced onto the faces of the former three.

The blood snakes instantly shot out and reached them. Sensing the wild, violent, dark, cold energy that was contained in the bodies of these snakes, Zi Yan’s expression had quietly become serious. Her small fist was slowly pulled apart, and her five fingers aimed at the blood snake that had shot over. “Break!”

“Bang!”

Zi Yan’s five fingers suddenly tightened as her voice sounded. Immediately, an invisible ripple flashed and spread out in a lightning-like manner. The air ten plus meters in front of her appeared to be molded by a frighteningly enormous cluster of air which, coincidentally, passed through the blood serpent at this spot. The blood serpent was pinched until it burst into a cluster of bloody fog in the shrunken space.

Having molded the opponent’s attack until it exploded in one move, Zi Yan swiftly drifted toward Liu Qing and Lin Xiuya who were scrambling around because of the snakes. She flicked her fingers and two gusts of wind shot out explosively, convulsing the two bloody snakes until they turned into a cluster of blood fog.

After settling the harassing blood snakes, Zi Yan’s toes pressed on the air and her lovely little body appeared in front of Fan Lao in a ghost-like manner. She twisted her waist and her delicate little leg drew a half-moon shape as it violently kicked at the latter’s head.

Zi Yan's small leg was delicate, weak and appeared to have the feeling of breaking at the slightest touch. However, if anyone were to neglect the frightening force contained within it, it was likely that the person would receive a terribly painful and bloody lesson.

With Fan Lao's many years of experience of muddling in this chaotic man-eat-man 'Black-Corner Region', it was naturally impossible for him to make such a mistake when fighting with another person. Moreover, after he saw Zi Yan blast apart his blood spear with a punch, he knew that this seemingly weak little girl possessed an extremely frightening strength!

Hence, it was naturally impossible for him to choose to ignore Zi Yan's close-range attack.

Fan Lao's shriveled hand swiftly danced and a wave of turbulent blood-colored energy suddenly surged out from Fan Lao's body. Finally, it agglomerated into a bloody liquid-like circular energy barrier on the left side of his body.

"Bang!"

Zi Yan's leg carried a low and deep explosive sound as it violently smashed onto the sticky blood-colored barrier. Immediately, a muffled explosion sounded, and one could see ripples fluctuating swiftly on the blood-colored barrier.

The fighting strength contained on her feet caused the blood-colored energy barrier to be compressed into a frightening arc. However, just as her foot was merely half an inch from Fan Lao's face, the force on it was finally completely resolved by the blood-colored energy barrier. Following a 'bang', the energy barrier that was compressed into an arc was violently reflected and bounced Zi Yan's foot until it was far from Fan Lao's body.

"Hmph!" Zi Yan merely snorted when her attack was blocked. Her body borrowed that reflected strength as it quietly floated up. With a flash of her body, she rushed into Fan Lao's chest. That delicate hand of hers moved swiftly and numerous afterimages appeared. They carried incomparably forceful winds as they viciously smashed against Fan Lao's chest.

Although Fan Lao did not adopt the attitude of looking down on Zi Yan, he still underestimated the latter's agility, speed as well as her sharp reaction in battle. Hence, he was initially violently smashed by a couple of Zi Yan's small fist strikes. That frightening force also caused his expression to change a little. Such a frightening physical strength was something that even some expert Dou Wangs specialized in training their physical body had difficulty possessing.

“Devouring Blood Armor!”

Although he suffered a couple of firm punches that caused the blood aura within his body to become a little more superficial, Fan Lao was still a battle experienced expert Dou Huang no matter how one put it. Hence, he recovered his senses within an extremely short amount of time. His hands moved in a lightning-like manner, and a bloody force flowed. A fresh dark-red seemingly solid blood-like armor appeared on his body.

“Qiang, Qiang!”

The afterimage's fist violently smashed on the dark, bloody liquid-like armor. Waves of metal collision sounds immediately sounded. That armor's defense was extremely strong, and was actually able to endure without breaking under Zi Yan's wild and ferocious smashes.

Fan Lao's body repeatedly pulled back in the sky. Although the armor dispersed quite a lot of the strength, the remnant force still caused his body to withdraw swiftly. He was actually being beaten so miserably by a Dou Wang class little girl under this kind of environment where countless of people were staring at him. This also caused his expression to become increasingly darker, more solemn and even more furious.

Countless numbers of students in the distance watched Zi Yan who was showing her might in the sky. All of them were extremely shocked. Zi Yan had seldom fought within the Inner Academy. She did not reveal any overly great strength even during the Strong Ranking Grand Competition due to various reasons. Therefore, quite a number of people who did not know her background had a doubtful attitude toward her strength. Today, however, that kind of doubt was destroyed without being attacked. A

person who could force a Dou Huang back. With such strength, her position as first on the 'Strong Ranking' was indeed something that no one could touch!

“Qiang!”

Another vicious punch landed on the armor. That armor, which was already about to break, finally cracked apart completely. Zi Yan did not have the time to rejoice when the armor cracked apart before a wave of surging blood aura erupted from within Fan Lao's body. The strength of that aura even shook Zi Yan until she took a couple of steps back.

Zi Yan had yet to have any reaction after body was shaken back when she heard a dark, low cry that suddenly sounded by the side of her ear, “Blood Demon Hand!”

Wild wind suddenly blew in the sky as the cry sounded. The wind even contained a trace of the bloody aura.

Zi Yan swiftly raised her head. Her small face changed involuntarily as she saw a twenty foot large enormous blood-colored hand suddenly appearing not far above her head and violently slamming toward her.

“Great Splitting Mountain!”

A loud cry was suddenly heard just as the enormous bloody hand violently shot toward Zi Yan. The sharp sound of rushing wind suddenly resounded, and a pale-gold sharp wind shot explosively into the sky. Finally, it collided heavily with that bloody palm. A thunder-like explosion immediately reverberated throughout the horizon as a turbulent energy ripple overflowed and shook the air until it swiftly vibrated.

The Dou Technique attack which Fan Lao had agglomerated for a while was actually scattered by an attack, causing him to be very shock. He glanced at the pale-faced panting Liu Qing and the shock in his eyes became even more dense. These students of the Inner Academy were actually so strong? That earlier attack of his was something that even an ordinary expert Dou Wang would be seriously injured if he was to endure it. It was really unexpected that this attack was scattered by a little fellow who only had half a step in the Dou Wang class. This caused him to



involuntarily feel extremely shocked.

“Green Submerged Sword Strike!”

A pale-green human figure suddenly flashed above Fan Lao’s head just as the latter was absent-minded. The clear ring of a sword sounded from the longsword in his hand. Dark-green energy agglomerated swiftly. In the blink of an eye, the entire sword was covered by an energy sheath. There were actually a countless number of wild winds that appeared and rotated around the body of the sword.

As the cold cry sounded, the longsword suddenly left his hand and coagulated with the ten plus rotating storms. Finally, it turned into a silent vague shadow that directly shot toward Fan Lao’s head in a lightning-like manner!

Lin Xiuya’s sneak attack was as fast as lightning. By the time Fan Lao sensed it, the frightening force that pricked one’s skin had already reached the top of the head. At that moment, he could only give up on using a Dou Technique to oppose it. His body shook and bloody aura immediately surged out from his head and scattered in all directions, much like a sea of blood.

The green-colored sword shadow instantly penetrated the sea of blood. The frightening force that it contained caused the sea of blood to fluctuate intensely.

“Agglomerate!”

Fan Lao’s cold cry suddenly sounded. The sea of blood fluctuated abruptly, and the sword figure that was about to penetrate through it appeared to have met a quagmire at this moment. Its movement in its trajectory was increasingly difficult.

As the viscous force contained within the sea of blood grew increasingly stronger, that green-colored sword figure finally completely came to a stop just as it was merely two feet from Fan Lao’s head.

The attack which contained Lin Xiuya’s full strength was actually unable to cause any actual harm to Fan Lao. This caused the former’s expression

to change slightly. The gap between him and Fan Lao was really too enormous.

“Xiu!”

A rushing wind sound was suddenly emitted from the sea of blood just as Lin Xiuya was feeling shocked in his heart. A bloody palm suddenly erupted from it and heavily struck the former who could not dodge in time.

“Grug!”

A mouthful of fresh blood was immediately spat out from Lin Xiuya’s mouth after receiving such a heavy attack. His body fell shakily, and the pair of vague Dou Qi wings on his back had also begun to become illusionary. Clearly, this sudden attack of Fan Lao had caused him to be quite badly injured.

The expression of Liu Qing also changed as he saw Lin Xiuya being seriously wounded. He had just moved when another bloody palm shot out explosively from the sea of blood.

The speed of the bloody palm was so fast that it was terrifying. After having unleashed his strongest attack, Liu Qing’s body had also become much slower. Hence, he could only watch with his eyes as the bloody palm moved increasingly closer to him!

A lovely little body suddenly flashed and appeared the instant Liu Qing was about to be struck. A little fist violently smashed forward. The air was once again swiftly compressed before the invisible air let out a bang and erupted under the pressure of the force. It collided heavily with the bloody palm, causing a fog of blood to splash throughout the sky.

Fan Lao’s eyes were dark and cold as he watched Zi Yan who had appeared beside Liu Qing. The pair of blood-colored wings on his back flapped slightly and his body swiftly surfaced. An instant later, it actually shrank into the sea of blood which had spread dozens of feet in every direction in the sky.

“A group of trash. I will finish all of you together.” A wave surged in the

sea of blood as Fan Lao's dark, cold laughter was slowly emitted.

"Be careful!"

Zi Yan frowned slightly as she watched Fan Lao squeezing into the sea of blood. She warned Liu Qing and was just about to act when she immediately sensed that the sea of blood had suddenly begun to churn. Her heart immediately tightened.

"Corroding Blood Palm!"

A cold cry suddenly sounded from within the sea of blood. Immediately, the sea of blood roiled intensely before a somewhat uniquely shaped dark, bloody palm, five feet tall, shot out from within. A bloody aura burst out along the way.

Feeling the dark and heavy blood palm, Zi Yan's eyes paused. She pushed Liu Qing behind her back a bit of distance. Her small fists shone with a jade like glow and under this glow's reflection, the small fists actually looked as if it was transparent.

The jade-like smooth little fist collided with the bloody palm, and actually unleashed an extremely clear sound of metal colliding. Zi Yan's little face watched the enormous bloody palm in a serious manner before a powerful jade luster suddenly surged from within her body an instant later.

"Bang!"

Both fists were shot out in a mediocre manner. However, they were like ice cubes that were thrown into a pot of boiling oil. The air in front of her immediately began to ripple intensely, as an extremely powerful force curled out before finally colliding with that bloody palm!

"Bang!"

The sound of mountains-collapsing and ground-cracking resounded through the sky, shocking countless of people who threw their gazes over.

"Hmph!"

The frightening ripple force surged out from the point of collision of the

energy. Zi Yan, who was the first to be struck, immediately let out a soft muffled snort. Her footsteps were somewhat messy as she swiftly took a few steps back. On the other hand, the sea of blood not far away merely had an intense fluctuation before it blocked the force.

“A Dou Wang who only knows how to use brute force... don’t stay here and embarrass yourself!” The sea of blood fluctuated as a ridiculing cold laugh suddenly sounded. Immediately, the sea of blood which was dozens of feet wide shrank down to around ten feet. Its color also appeared extremely deep and dark.

“Xiu!”

The cold laugh had just sounded when another bloody palm, which contained an extremely dark, deep color, erupted from the sea of blood!

The Dou Qi in her body was somewhat superficial after being convulsed by the ripple from earlier. Hence, her expression also changed slightly as she watched Fan Lao who was actually still able to unleash an even stronger attack at such speed.

The bloody palm drew through the sky, forming an arc. It immediately appeared in front of the defenseless Zi Yan in a lightning-like manner while being watched by a countless number of shocked gazes.

“Go and die!” Savage, strange laughter sounded within the sea of blood. It was dark and cold, much like freezing blood.

“Chi!”

The faint sound of rolling thunder suddenly sounded just as the bloody palm was about to smash Zi Yan’s body. The sound reverberated through the sky and the eyes of those people who were staring in the sky immediately shrank.

A black figure appeared in front of Zi Yan in a ghost-like manner the moment the rolling thunder sounded. With a random wave of his hand, a powerful green-colored flame curled out. It easily blocked the bloody palm, and even incinerated it into nothingness.

The faces of Liu Qing, Lin Xiuya, and the countless number of students

on the ground revealed surprised faces as they watched the bloody palm which contained an extremely strong strike from Fan Lao disappear so easily. However, when they heard a familiar voice that soon followed, that surprise immediately turned into dumbfoundedness!

“Using such a vicious means against a little girl. I really did not disgrace you when calling you an old dog.”

A black-robed, young man stood in the sky with hands behind his back. A powerful frightening aura surged out like waves in the sea. The strength of that aura was not any weaker than Fan Lao!

# Chapter 598: Green Flame Everywhere!

The sudden appearance of a powerful aura that was not the slightest bit weaker than an elite in the Dou Huang class not only caused the countless of students in the distance to be stunned, but even the chaotic battlefield in the sky had appeared slightly silent because of it.

Numerous gazes swept toward the area where the aura erupted. Many experts were startled when they saw the source of the aura. Upon seeing Fan Lao who was facing the source on the opposite side, their expression became different. The faces of those who regarded Han Feng as the leader immediately became ugly. At this moment when they were evenly matched, the impact an elite Dou Huang possessed was quite great. One could even say that it could decide the final victor...

Su Qian, Hu Gan, and the other experts within the Inner Academy may be stunned at Xiao Yan who had suddenly erupted, but the majority of their feelings were of joy... At this moment, Xiao Yan was undoubtedly a reinforcement who had made an extremely timely appearance. With his help, their side of the battleground would be able to have at least one less expert Dou Huang. This would undoubtedly greatly reduce the pressure that the Elders faced.

"This little brat... indeed held something back. I just knew that it was impossible that he did not possess a true trump card after being able to force the Misty Cloud Sect into that manner." Hu Gan eyed the aura emitted by Xiao Yan, which was not at all weaker than him. His heart involuntarily let out praise before he immediately gazed toward the frowning Han Feng on the opposite side. He could not help but laughed coldly, "Han Feng, you better pray that the Headmaster will not return within a short period of time. Otherwise..."

Han Feng's eyes narrowed slightly as he spoke in a faint voice, "A natural and unique treasure like the 'Heavenly Flame' is something that a destined person should possess. This kind of sealing method of your Inner Academy is somewhat against the rules."

“Then it is within the rules to give it to you alchemists to refine it?” Hu Gan ridiculed.

Han Feng knit his brows, but did not continue the meaningless argument. While he was facing off against Hu Gan, his gaze was repeatedly thrown in the direction where Xiao Yan was. For some unknown reason, he repeatedly sensed a very strange feeling coming from this young man.

“This feeling... why is it such a familiar feeling?” Han Feng muttered in his heart. He thought about it bitterly to no avail and could only throw his gaze toward the battle circle where Su Qian and the Gold Silver Brothers were at. As the three strongest people present, there was no sign of anyone else within a hundred meters of their battleground. The remnant waves of such a fight at such a level was something that even a Dou Huang expert like them did not dare to easily ignore.

“The Gold Silver Brothers may be able to fight with an elite Dou Zong after joining hands, however, it was clearly impossible for them to defeat Su Qian. As more time passed, they would gradually end up in a disadvantaged situation. There might be quite a bit of trouble if Su Qian was allowed to divert his attention at that time. Looks like I need to quickly escape.” A thought swiftly ran through Han Feng’s heart, and his gaze gradually became cold a moment later. He flipped his hands and a deep-blue flame suddenly rose from his palm.

Hu Gan’s expression became much more serious upon seeing the writhing deep-blue flame in Han Feng’s hand. Any expert Dou Huang would be extremely afraid if Han Feng were to control the ‘Heavenly Flame’ with his current strength. This naturally included Hu Gan.

Powerful Dou Qi spread out from Hu Gan’s body causing his sleeves to flap. He slowly exhaled a breath of air, and a thunder-like explosion was emitted from his tongue. The aura on his entire body had also become much stronger amid this strange explosive sound.

“You are dreaming if you intend to snatch a ‘Heavenly Flame’ from the Jia Nan Academy.” Hu Gan laughed coldly as he twisted his body. It

disappeared in an instant, and was shockingly in front of Han Feng the next time it appeared. Waves of rolling thunder sounded as the winds from his palms intertwined with each other.

.....

“All of you should pull back first. I will deal with him.” Xiao Yan slowly turned his head around and spoke to Zi Yan and Liu Qing with a smile.

Liu Qing and Zi Yan were watching Xiao Yan with shocked gazes. The powerful aura that spread out from the latter’s body was not the least bit inferior to Fan Lao on the opposite side. Xiao Yan’s strength had basically soared in a frightening manner within a short period of time. Moreover, this kind of great increase was without reason. Although they knew that Xiao Yan possessed a kind of Secret Technique that could allow him to increase his strength within a short period of time, it could at the very most raise Xiao Yan’s strength by a few stars. Now, however... he basically leaped through two classes, no?

Liu Qing swallowed a mouthful of saliva. He merely felt his throat become dry. Originally, he had thought that the powerful Dou Technique that Xiao Yan had displayed back then was his final trump card. Only now did he understand that if Xiao Yan were to completely unleash his strength, he would not even be able to endure a single exchange!

“Xiao Yan, what kind of medicinal pill did you consume? Why have you become so strong?” Zi Yan could not control the curiosity in her heart, and immediately ignored the somewhat superficial bloody aura within her body that was caused by Fan Lao’s attack as she asked with a surprised face.

“Where can one find such a powerful medicinal pill?” Xiao Yan smiled and pulled at Zi Yan’s ponytail. The latter immediately shook her head in displeasure and avoided him. Only then did Xiao Yan speak, “Alright, little fellow. Bring Liu Qing and Lin Xiuya down. Leave this to me.”

Zi Yan curled her mouth and could only nod her head somewhat unwillingly. “Alright. However that old fellow is too detestable. You must get back at him for me, and make sure to give him a good beating.”



“No problem.” Xiao Yan smiled and nodded. That brilliant smile caused a chill to form all over Fan Lao’s body not far away.

Only after seeing Xiao Yan nodding his head in agreement did Zi Yan drag Liu Qing and flashed before appearing beside Lin Xiuya, whose wings on his back had become increasingly illusionary. With one hand grabbing each of them, she swiftly rushed down from the sky and returned to the place where the group of them had stayed earlier.

Lin Yan, Yan Hao, and the others on a roof watched Zi Yan and the other two rushing down from the sky before hurrying forward.

Liu Qing and Lin Xiuya merely smiled and shook their heads at faces of the group showed. They immediately lifted their head together without any prior agreement and threw their gazes toward Xiao Yan who was facing Fan Lao in the sky alone. It was a long while later before they let out a sigh. They looked at one another before sighing with a bitter smile, “This top spot on the Inner Academy’s ‘Strong Ranking’ should belong to this fellow. It is really unexpected that he actually hid a card so deeply...”

Zi Yan, who was the person in question, did not reveal any grimacing expression with regards to the words of these two people. She clearly understood that even she was much weaker compared to the strength that Xiao Yan was currently displaying.

Lin Yan, Yan Hao, and the others behind the two also smiled bitterly as they nodded. The frightening strength that Xiao Yan suddenly displayed also caused them to be extremely shocked.

“It is really unexpected that you actually possess such a trump card. No wonder Ling-er died in your hands.” Fan Lao’s expression was dark and solemn as he eyed the surging aura of Xiao Yan. His voice was gloomy as he spoke.

TL: Ling-er – Fan Ling, Fan Lao’s son

“I did not need to be like this in order to deal with him.” Xiao Yan smiled. His eyes which were staring at Fan Lao slowly became cold. “Since you are also muddling along within the ‘Black-Corner Region’, you should also know what kind of price a life had there. Who cares if a person was

killed regardless of his identity? Forget about your son, even if you, an old dog, who likes human blood were to die, it is likely that not many people would remember you.”

Upon hearing this, Fan Lao ended up laughing in his extreme anger. “What an arrogant little fellow. Don’t think that your victory is certain just because your strength has soared. What kind of situation have I, Fan Lao, not seen after so many years? You little brat don’t have the qualification to speak to me in this manner.”

Xiao Yan curled the corner of his mouth slightly and was too lazy to continue speaking nonsense with this old fellow who was overflowing with confidence. He flicked his finger, and a green-colored flame instantly surged out from the tip of his finger. Finally, it turned into two long flame-whips that were swung violently in front of him. Immediately, a great heat that carried a thunderclap resounded.

Fan Lao’s expression slowly became serious as he sensed the gradually surging flame outside of Xiao Yan’s body. Although his lips spoke those words, he did not dare to look down on the current Xiao Yan by the slightest bit. Due to his Qi Method, his Dou Qi leaned toward the dark and cold side (Yin). This kind of Dou Qi affinity feared the strong yang and explosive fire affinity Dou Qi. Xiao Yan’s Dou Qi was not only of the fire affinity but the flame he was controlling was a spiritual being among the flames: a Heavenly Flame. Hence, Fan Lao suffered a great disadvantage when the two fought. This was not very obvious due to the large gap in their strength earlier. However, Xiao Yan’s strength had currently soared. Along with it, his control of the ‘Heavenly Flame’, and even its temperature had also soared greatly.

Hence, Fan Lao could no longer adopt the same kind of attitude he did toward Xiao Yan earlier when faced with such a troublesome opponent.

With a wave of his sleeve, the sea of blood that was dozens of feet wide immediately began to churn. Fan Lao once again hid within it. This sea of blood was created from Dou Qi after practicing his Qi Method until its pinnacle. It would provide an enormous enhancement regardless of whether it was in terms of Dou Qi recovery or attacking during a fight.

Moreover, the cover of the sea of blood could even help in hiding one's body. This so-called sea of blood possessed an enormous amount of credit, credit that allowed Fan Lao to be able to build the Blood Sect within the man-eat-man 'Black-Corner Region' to what it was and to become a powerful leader.

Fan Lao's aura immediately became much more powerful following the disappearance of his body within the sea of blood. That aura which spread across the sky and contained some bloody scent also swiftly soared. In the end, the surrounding sky faintly carried a dark-red color.

A countless number of students below opened their eyes as they watched the pale-blood color spreading in the sky. A wave of bloody stench also came pouncing on them despite being a great distance away, causing many to feel a chill in their hearts.

"A useless move."

Xiao Yan simply laughed softly upon seeing the expanding aura of Fan Lao. With a flick of his finger, the green-colored flame curled out from his body in all directions. The temperature in the sky immediately soared. The dark-redness that was spreading through the sky appeared to be like ice cubes meeting boiling oil as it swiftly melted...

In the blink of an eye, the bloody stench that caused the bodies of a countless number of people to become cold completely disappeared from the horizon.

Xiao Yan glanced faintly at the sea of blood that hid Lao Fan. He let out a smile as he slowly extended his finger and pointed toward the cluster of bloody sea.

Time paused at this moment. An instant later, an unceasing amount of flame came spreading out with shocking speed. Immediately, they agglomerated into a sea of flame under a countless number of stunned gazes. The bloody aura was swiftly becoming vaporized within that sea of flame...

"This sea of blood... let it also be incinerated."

# Chapter 599: Sea Heart Flame

The green flame curled over the sky. Waves of distortion appeared in the air wherever one looked. A great heat spread through the air and was transmitted, covering the entire Inner Academy within it.

Numerous gazes from the ground were stunned as they watched the green-colored flame that was curling out like a burning grassland. They could not help but wipe their cold sweat away. Such a frightening imposing feeling was indeed a little too terrifying.

The middle of where the green flame spread was a cluster of bloody sea that was merely ten feet wide. At this moment, the sea of blood that was originally expanding in an extremely domineering manner had swiftly begun to curl up under the frightening temperature of the surrounding flames. Waves of pale-blood fog repeatedly seeped out from within it before turning into nothingness.

The surface of the sea of blood slowly shrank under the repeatedly rising blood fog. According to this speed, it was likely that the surroundings would be completely vaporized by the sea of fire.

“Heavenly Flame?” The sky immediately emitted numerous extremely shocked cries as the green-colored flame curled toward the sky. The gazes of some people immediately turned involuntarily toward Han Feng who was fighting with Hu Gan not far away.

At this moment, Han Feng’s gaze had also stared unblinkingly at Xiao Yan the instant that the green-colored flame appeared. There was a shock that was difficult to hide within his eyes. He did not expect that the latter would actually be able to obtain a ‘Heavenly Flame’ at such an age. It should be known that he had nearly lost his life in order to obtain this ‘Sea Heart Flame’ that was ranked fifteenth on the ‘Heavenly Flame Ranking’ back then. He manage to obtain it with sheer luck. The swallowing and refinement that followed also caused him to suffer greatly. Moreover, due to him practicing an incomplete ‘Flame Mantra’, it also resulted in the ‘Heavenly Flame’ not being completely suppressed. The flame within his

body would occasionally revolt, causing him a lot of trouble.

Hence, even with Han Feng's scheming, he could not help but feel jealous when he saw that Xiao Yan was able to control a kind of 'Heavenly Flame' without any fear at such an age.

"From the looks of the color of this flame as well as the illusory lotus shape that would occasionally form when it burst, I think that this should be the 'Heavenly Flame' that is ranked nineteenth... the 'Green Lotus Core Flame'!" Han Feng's gaze flashed swiftly as the gaze within his eyes gradually gained an additional greed while looking at Xiao Yan.

"It is really unexpected that I am actually able to meet two kinds of 'Heavenly Flame' within one day. Hee hee, this trip is really not wasted. If I am able to obtain these two kinds of 'Heavenly Flame' and successfully swallow them with the incomplete 'Flame Mantra', my strength will definitely soar. At that time, I think that the old man from the Jia Nan Academy would not be able to deal with me even if he returned." A cold smile and fanaticism surfaced on the corner of Han Feng's mouth as this thought flashed in his heart.

"But despite this little fellow being young, his control over the flame appears to be extremely great. Such an enormous sea of flame is something that even the current me can barely use. Yet, he is able to use it as he pleases. Looks like it won't be easy to snatch the 'Heavenly Flame' from his hands." Han Feng could not help but frown as he muttered in his heart when he saw Xiao Yan, whose face did not change much after using the sea of flames.

Although the 'Heavenly Flame' was extremely rare in the Dou Qi continent, there were still two different methods to remove it after it was refined. The first kind was to forcefully remove it. This kind of overbearing manner in snatching the 'Heavenly Flame' required the person being robbed to be unable to resist. Moreover, once the 'Heavenly Flame' was successfully snatched, the person who had lost it would gradually die as the 'Heavenly Flame' left his body. Hence, this kind of method was usually used by some vicious people who wanted to obtain a 'Heavenly Flame' by foul or fair means.

The second type was to inherit a 'Heavenly Flame' This kind of 'Heavenly Flame' inheritance similarly required one to pay a hefty price. For example, the source of the 'Skyfire Three Mysterious Change' that Xiao Yan practiced: the 'Burning Flame Valley', which was renowned from how they played with fire, had a kind of 'Heavenly Flame' which was inherited. This type of 'Heavenly Flame' was something that only the Valley Leader had the right to inherit. They passed it from one generation to another in this manner and this became the strongest protection measure of the sect. However, after this kind of inheritance, when the previous leader passed it over to the next leader, the strength of the former would decline by more than half. Should one not be careful, there was even the chance of one's life being at risk. This kind of matter was basically something not uncommon during the inheritance in the 'Burning Flame Valley'.

These two methods to transfer the 'Heavenly Flame' were commonly used in the continent. Most of the experts whose strength had reached a certain level would be able to know a little about it. Given Han Feng's strength, he naturally had the qualification to know about it. Moreover, back then, he had also adopted the greedy thought of snatching the 'Heavenly Flame' when he attacked Yao Lao. However, he did not end up with his wish because of Yao Lao's alertness.

Xiao Yan in the distant was naturally unaware that someone actually remembered him after merely displaying a little of the 'Heavenly Flame'. There were quite a number of people who knew about him possessing a 'Heavenly Flame' during these few years. While he was still at the Jia Ma Empire, even the people in the Alchemist Association and Pill King Gu knew about it. However, there was hardly anyone who thought of snatching it. One reason was because those people who possessed a 'Heavenly Flame' were extremely troublesome to deal with. Another reason was that the person who wanted to forcefully snatch the 'Heavenly Flame' also needed to undertake great risk. Hence, other than a few extreme fellows, there was usually hardly anyone who would think of forcefully snatching another person's 'Heavenly Flame'.

Coincidentally, that Han Feng was one of these extreme fellows. He was able to use any means, fair or foul, to obtain strength, and was even able to do an outrageous act like killing his teacher without feeling any remorse.

However, Xiao Yan did not currently have the time to observe this fellow who had evil intentions. His attention was currently placed entirely on his opponent – Fan Lao.

That cluster of blood that was over ten feet wide appeared to be like a rock in the turbulent waves within the enormous green-colored sea of flames. It constantly faced the danger of complete destruction.

Fan Lao sensed the irritable hot temperature of the surroundings from within the sea of blood. His expression had turned extremely ugly. He may have known that the opponent's 'Heavenly Flame' had a certain restraint on his sea of blood, but he did not expect that the so-called 'restraint' was actually to such an extent... under the surrounding sea of flame, the sharp, dark, cold energy within the sea of blood had completely lost its effect. The size of the sea of blood was also slowly shrinking under the incineration with this kind of temperature. According to this speed, it was likely unable to endure for too long.

"This bastard!"

Fan Lao clenched his teeth and scolded in a menacing manner. He lifted his eyes and his gaze passed through the flame before finally stopping on the black-robed, young man, who was suspended in the air not far away. The corner of his mouth twitched a little. It was unexpected that with his prominent position and reputation within the 'Black-Corner Region', he had actually ended up in such a helpless state by this young man who was still wet behind the ears. This was quite a severe blow to him.

"If I lose to this kind of person, it is likely that I will be laughed to death by those fellows within the 'Black-Corner Region'." Fan Lao clenched his teeth viciously and suddenly formed some seals within his hand. Immediately, the sea of blood that was continuing to shrink after being surrounding by the green flame, suddenly began to surge intensely before it was swiftly withdrawn. Threads of Dou Qi quickly entered the former's

body.

“Blood Transformation!”

As the blood entered his body, the sea of blood that spread around the place swiftly became thinner. Those pair of eyes belonging to Fan Lao also slowly became blood-red. Moreover, his pair of shriveled hands also grew increasingly white. The tip of one of his fingers strangely gained a sharp blood-colored nail. Much like an incomparably sharp blade, it reflected a dark, cold glint under the sunlight.

Fan Lao's back shook slightly, and a bloody aura spurt out before covering the blood-colored wings on his back. Those Dou Qi wings immediately flapped, and an instant later, a transformation occurred. At a glance, they became even longer and stranger. One could vaguely see that it appeared just like the merger of the wings belonging to a bird and bat.

After the last thread of bloody aura entered Fan Lao's body, the spreading sea of blood finally disappeared completely. The former's body once again appeared in front of Xiao Yan's sight.

“It is sufficient for you to be proud that you are able to force me to use the ‘Blood Transformation’.” A circular blood-colored light film spread out from his body, isolating the surrounding hot temperature. The wings on Fan Lao's back flapped slightly, and his body immediately turned into blood-colored lightning that instantly flashed out from the engulfment of the green-colored flames. He appeared at a spot that was less than ten meters from where Xiao Yan was. His dark, cold laughter reverberated on the horizon.

Xiao Yan watched Fan Lao, whose appearance had changed slightly. Surprise flashed in his eyes. Currently, the latter was much stronger than before, whether it was in terms of his aura, speed, etc. From the looks of it, this old fellow had finally begun to reveal his true ability after being ravaged by the ‘Heavenly Flame’.

“This is not sufficient. Since you have been bearing a grudge in your heart over your son being killed in my hands, I will not mind sending you to meet with him.” Xiao Yan spread his hand and laughed at Fan Lao. That



laughter was extremely harsh and acrid when it landed in the latter's ears, causing the cold, dark face of his to be able to freeze one's heart and lungs.

Xiao Yan waved his sleeves while he spoke. Immediately, the green-colored flame that covered the sky wiggled swiftly. Finally, it once again agglomerated into two jade-colored long fire snakes that slithered forward and backward. They followed his fingers, and entered into his body.

The Spiritual Strength that was exhausted when controlling such an enormous flame was quite significant. If not for the support of Yao Lao's strength, Xiao Yan would not be able to use what he did earlier even if he used all his strength. Hence, he naturally needed to recoup from using such an enormous flame. Otherwise, it would be too extravagant to allow it to simply disappear between the heavens and earth. This was especially so for Xiao Yan who was still engaged in battle.

Fan Lao inhaled a deep breath of air and did his best to suppress the killing intent that was soaring in his heart. His gaze was like that of a sharp blade as it stared intently at the smiling Xiao Yan. A moment later, his mouth emitted an awful hissing laughter. His blood-red eyes suddenly widened, and a thunder-like roar finally carried an incomparable fury and killing intent as it was emitted.

"Little bastard. If I do not tear you into a thousand pieces, strip your bones, and pull out your ligaments, I might as well kill myself on the spot!"

Xiao Yan merely smiled when faced with Fan Lao's shocking killing intent and the countless number of stunned gazes from below. His soft words completely caused the gunpowder-barrel-like Fan Lao to explode.

"In that case... you should go and die, old dog."

# Credits

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Epub: [Estevam](#) / [dotNOVEL](#)